

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I have seen all this.

Sardar Swaran Singh: If my hon. friend has seen all this, then so far as the assurances part is concerned, I could not do better than repeat what is contained there.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: The Assurances Committee had said that it should be given on a on-profit-not-loss basis. But you charged Rs. 30 per yard as the market value in some places.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not know wherefrom my hon. friend got this figure of Rs. 30 per yard....

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: From the documents supplied to us.

Sardar Swaran Singh:...for residential purposes

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: For commercial purposes.

Sardar Swaran Singh: For residential purposes, it varies from Rs. 11 to Rs. 12-10 and for commercial purposes, it varies from Rs. 21 to Rs. 33. The market value in all these areas would be to the tune of anywhere from Rs. 50 to Rs. 70 in the residential areas and anywhere from Rs. 50 to Rs. 150 for the commercial areas.

It may be that the concession does not come up to his expectation, but to say that no action has been taken is something which perhaps does not represent a correct picture.

I would therefore, submit that so far as this Bill is concerned, we have discussed it at very great length. All these points which have been raised will be surely kept in view in implementing this Bill.

Shri M. K. Moitra (Calcutta-North West): On a point of information, will the Minister be pleased to give an assurance that the Advisory Committee will be consulted before eviction notice are issued?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I think that that is a matter really of detailed administration. Actually, the Health Ministry will work out the details of the constitution and the way they function. But I would hesitate to be a member of any advisory committee where I am called upon to perform executive functions. Either I am a member of the Board itself, or, if I am in an advisory capacity, I won't take the responsibility of actual execution of the various schemes. I feel that the issuing of eviction notice is very much an executive function. It may be that boardly the scheme is settled, that this is the re-housing scheme and they take the advice and all that. After that, so far as issuing of eviction notice in each individual case is concerned, whether it is 10 days or 15 days and what is going to happen and all that, these are matters of detail. I would hesitate to become a member in an advisory capacity of such a body which is given executive functions. Either I be on the Board or if the Committee is advisory, I will advise on policy matters but not on details of administration.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

The motion was adopted.

STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATIONS (AMENDMENTS) BILL

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha): I beg to move:

"That the Bill, further to amend the State Financial Corporations Act, 1951, be taken into consideration".

The State Financial Corporations Act was passed in 1951 in order to enable State Governments to establish Financial Corporations for providing long-term credit to small-scale and medium-scale industries. Since then, 13 State Financial Corporations have

been established. Some of them have been in working for three years, some only for just a few months. I think the last of them was established in Orissa in March 1956. Their total authorised capital is about Rs. 25 crores, but the issued and subscribed capital is just a little over Rs. 10 crores, out of which State Governments have taken Rs. 33 crores, the Reserve Bank has taken Rs. 1.70 crores, scheduled banks, insurance companies and other investing institutions have taken Rs. 3.72 crores and others, that is, some private parties, have taken Rs. 0.53 crores. In all, the total subscribed capital is a little over Rs. 10 crores.

As I have stated, these Corporations are intended to cater loan for the small-scale and medium-scale industries. The House is aware that the Second Five Year Plan has four main objectives: rapid industrialisation, increase in national income, creation of more employment and removal of disparity of income and wealth. In spite of the fact that basic and big industries will surely be of much help for rapid industrialisation, I think the House will agree that small-scale and medium-scale industries also have their role to play in the industrialisation of the country. Moreover, for the last two objectives, that is creating more employment and removing disparity of income, I think small-scale and medium-scale industries are more suited. That is why the Planning Commission has given some special importance to these industries, and it is quite appropriate that Government should come before this House to amend the State Financial Corporations Act so that these Corporations may do their little bit in helping the small-scale and medium-scale industries.

For helping big industries, we have got the Industrial Finance Corporation, the National Industrial Development Corporation and also the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation. But so far as the small-scale and medium-scale industries are concern-

ed, only the State Financial Corporation in the particular State is somewhat in a position to help them. So long the State Governments have been giving some help to them through the State Aid to Industries Act. But I think every Member, who is conversant with the working of that Act in his or her respective State, will agree, that this Act has not been able to give much help in this respect. Apparently, the State Government, by itself, is not the proper machinery to render help,—financial aid and loans to industries. For this purpose, some specialised institutions are to be set up and the State Financial Corporations as specialised agents are better suited to render help to the small-scale and medium-scale industries.

I think the House will agree that between the big institutions, the Industrial Finance Corporation, the National Industrial Development Corporation or the ICIC, and the State Financial Corporation there is hardly any risk of overlapping. The Industrial Finance Corporation does not give any loan less than Rs. 10 lakhs which is just the maximum for the State Financial Corporation, the latter do not give any loan of more than Rs. 10 lakhs—I think they give loan even up to as low an amount as Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 20,000. So there is no conflict or overlapping in the operations of the Industrial Finance Corporation and the State Financial Corporations or the other two bodies mentioned previously. Their scope is more bigger and wider still.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): Can the same national industry get Rs. 1 lakhs from one and Rs. 10 lakhs from another?

Shri A. C. Guha: They will not get any thing less than Rs. 10 lakhs from the Industrial Finance Corporation. I think the limit for the one is Rs. 10 lakhs and for the other more than that. So there cannot be any overlapping.

Shri K. K. Basu: Suppose a sugar concern having a capital of Rs. 50

[Shri K. K. Basu]
lakhs gets Rs. 10 lakhs from the All-India Industrial Finance Corporation and Rs. 1 lakhs for its running capital from the State Corporation, can there be such a thing?

Shri A. C. Guha: I do not think there will be any such case.

Shri K. K. Basu: But, it is legally possible.

Shri A. C. Guha: For the Industrial Finance Corporation, there is not legal ban; but there is a policy that it should not give any thing less than Rs. 10 lakhs.

These small-scale and medium-scale industries are spread over the whole of India in its different parts. In the Centre, we have just started under the Commerce and Industry Ministry an organisation called the Small Scale Industries Corporation. That also is to help the small-scale industries. As far as I know, its sphere of activities is altogether of a different nature from the sphere of activities of the State Financial Corporations. Moreover, as I have said, these small-scale and medium-scale industries are spread over all the different parts of the country and it is not possible for a Central organisation, like the Small Scale Industries Corporation to render appropriate aid to all these small-scale industries in different parts of the country. That is why the State Financial Corporations would be of much use and more suited to help the small-scale and medium-scale industries.

I have stated that some of these Corporations have been working for the last three years. I think the first was started in February 1953 and the last in March 1956. I cannot claim that the working of these Corporations during these two or three years has been very much satisfactory. I cannot say that they have been able to render any substantial financial help to small-scale and medium-scale industries.

Shri Achuthan (Cranganur): May we know what amount has been dis-

bursed by them till now for small-scale industries?

Shri A. C. Guha: I think, a little over Rs. 2 crores.

This failure of these Corporations to render adequate financial aid is, to some extent, due to the provisions of the Act and to some extent also to the structure and nature of the small-scale industries. They are not so well organised and they have not got the appropriate machinery to approach the Corporations for the aid or to be process its needs and applications in a suitable manner. All these have to be looked into carefully. As far as the defects in the provisions of the Act are concerned, we are coming before the House for amending the Act so that these Corporations may render the service that is expected of them in helping the small-scale industries.

About two years ago, this matter came before the attention of the Reserve Bank. I hope the Members will recollect that on a number of occasions questions have been put in this House about the working of these Corporations and the House expressed on many occasions its dissatisfaction about the working of these Corporations. So, the whole matter was taken up by the Reserve Bank. It convened a conference of the representatives of the different State Financial Corporations and certain recommendations were made there. The main function that the Reserve Bank has been performing is to help these State Financial Corporations and to arrange a sort of co-ordination. Though there is no such provision as yet in the Act, all these Corporations voluntarily agreed to have some periodical inspection by the Reserve Bank so that the defects in their working may be examined by the Reserve Bank and rectified. The different State Governments also welcomed this intervention by the Reserve Bank in this matter. This will just show that all these Corporations as well as the different State Governments were really eager that these Corporations

may perform their assigned duty in a proper manner.

I think these are the main features of the background. I think I should now say something about the different provisions of the Bill. In clause 2, we have tried to widen the scope of the activities of the State Financial Corporations. The term 'processing of goods' appeared to be somewhat ambiguous and it was not sure what industry would come under this definition directly. So, now, we are giving a wider definition so that the State Financial Corporations may know which of the industries would be legally entitled to get help from those Corporations. I hope the removal of this handicap on the working of the State Financial Corporations would help them much in widening their financial activities and also help the different industries in getting the necessary aid from the Corporations.

1-48 P.M.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

In clause 4 we have provided for a joint Corporation for more than one State. I recollect at least on two or three occasions questions were asked about the State Financial Corporation of the Delhi State. I had to reply then that it was not possible for the Delhi State to maintain a separate State Financial Corporation of its own and so the proposal was to enable the Delhi State and the Punjab State to have a combined or joint State Financial Corporation. We were waiting for a more comprehensive amendment of this Act; and we are now providing that more than one State may combine in forming a joint State Financial Corporation.

In clause 24 of this Bill there is also a similar provision that a State may join a Corporation already existing in another State and thus have a joint Financial Corporation.

Clauses 4 and 24 may be taken together because they provide the same

facilities for the States to have joint Financial Corporations.

Clause 6 provides facilities for the State Financial Corporations for borrowing money from the Reserve Bank. Besides the subscribed share capital, there is also provision in the Act for the State Financial Corporations to raise further capital by issuing and sale of bonds and debentures and also by accepting deposits from the public. Issue of further capital as also raising money by sale of bonds and debentures would mean a permanent liability on the State Financial Corporations either to give dividend or to give interest. But it may happen that a particular State Financial Corporation may require a short-term loan for meeting some emergency. So, it has been provided here, but in such cases, the State Financial Corporation would be entitled to take short-term loan from the Reserve Bank for a period not exceeding 90 days. These borrowings are, of course, to be against the securities of the Central or State Governments.

Shri K. K. Basu: The purpose of the State Corporation is to give long-term loans; but how will this arrangement serve the purpose if this help is given only for 90 days?

Shri A. C. Guha: This is just to provide for an emergency. As yet there has not been any such emergency, but it is better, I think, to provide for such emergency. A State Financial Corporation may have to give some loan and in that particular period it might not have got the money and it might not be so easy to raise fresh capital or raise money by issuing and selling bonds and debentures. For that particular period it may be necessary for the State Financial Corporation to get a loan, and subsequently to raise money by issuing fresh capital or by selling bonds and debentures.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): Why against securities only of the Central or State Governments? Why not otherwise? They are quite reliable.

Shri A. C. Guha: I think the Reserve Bank also should have some security. The securities of the Government which is the guardian of these corporations may be better securities.

Clause 7 is not of much importance; it is only a matter of minor importance. The State Government can nominate three directors on the Board of the State Financial Corporation, but when there will be a joint Financial Corporation, the number of nominated directors on the Board will be limited to two, that is, not more than two.

Clause 9 is somewhat important. According to the Act, the managing director is appointed for four years, but it may happen that a managing director has to be removed before the expiry of his term. A similar case happened and I think hon. Members will recollect the case of the Industrial Finance Corporation—Shri Lanka Sundaram will recollect it surely.....

Dr. Lanka Sundaram (Visakhapatnam): Those were the days when you were on this side.

Shri A. C. Guha: Even if I be on this side, Dr. Lanka Sundaram was thundering from there. Anyway, I might have started the game, and he has to give it the finishing hush. It has been provided that whenever necessary, Government may remove the managing director even before the expiry of the four-year term, but he will, of course, be given the opportunity to give his explanation to the charges levelled against him.

Clause 12 is also somewhat important. It has two sub-clauses. Sub-clause (a) relates to giving the State Financial Corporations agency functions on behalf of the Central Government, State Government and the Industrial Finance Corporation. I think my hon. friends will realise that

it is not so easy for the Central Government or the Industrial Finance Corporation to render any financial help in distant places, and it is better to have some agency in this respect to process it and look after it; and some after-care also is necessary. All these things could better be given to the State Financial Corporation who will have more direct contact with the local matters and local personalities. I hope the House will also appreciate the provisions contained in sub-clause (b). These provisions entitle not only the small-scale industries but also the cottage industries to get accommodation from the State Financial Corporation. The provision is that any loan to be taken from the State Financial Corporation as also from the Industrial Finance Corporation will be against some recognised security. But here we are providing that on the guarantee of the State Government or of a scheduled bank or of a co-operative bank, loan may be given to small industries and even cottage industries, which may not be in a position to give a regular guarantee or security for the loan. This is particularly intended to help not only the small-scale industries but even the cottage industries.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy (Salem): What is the minimum amount of loan that they can get?

Shri A. C. Guha: They can get down to Rs. 10,000. Giving loans to small-scale and cottage industries would involve some risk on the part of the State Financial Corporation.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: What is the rate of interest if we advance money to cottage industries?

Shri A. C. Guha: That will depend upon the State Financial Corporation concerned. I think the hon. Member may influence his Punjab State Financial Corporation to charge lower rate.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: If the guarantee is to be given, those who give guarantee shall also charge, and so it will be prohibitive.

Shri A. C. Guha: May not be. I do not think the State Government will charge anything.

Shri K. K. Basu: Banks will.

Shri A. C. Guha: Banks may charge. The normal rates of interest charged by the State Financial Corporation is about 6½ per cent.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: What are your intentions in this matter in respect of the cottage industries?

Shri A. C. Guha: The State Financial Corporation may also render help to the cottage industries, but the State Financial Corporation will also have to look after the safety of its own fund and yet will have to take some risk. That risk will be counterbalanced by the guarantee by the State Government or the scheduled bank.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: There is a little confusion here. We are not talking about removing securities for the loans given. What is the rate at which you propose to lend? Will it be lower than the current bank rate or is there any rate available for you?

Shri A. C. Guha: If it is 6½ per cent, surely it is lower than the rate at which a small-scale industry or a cottage industry can get loans from the banks. There is no provision in the Act. That will be surely left to the different Corporations to decide.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: If you require scheduled banks' guarantee, then the banks are also bound to charge something from those people, and so the rate will be prohibitive.

Shri A. C. Guha: I think he can make his points in the clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would also request the hon. Members to reserve their remarks till their speeches. There have been sufficient questions put.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: We want to have a complete picture of the mind of the Government. /

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let not the House be converted into a Committee.

Shri A. C. Guha: Clause 21 provides for the inspection of these Corporations by the Reserve Bank. I have already stated that these Corporations have voluntarily agreed to have inspections by the Reserve Bank, and the relevant State Governments also have agreed, and have rather welcomed this inspection by the Reserve Bank.

It is felt that there should be some provision in the Act so that the Reserve Bank may have some statutory right to inspect the working of the different Financial Corporations. They will submit their report to the Central Government as also to the State Governments and whatever steps are to be taken will be decided in consultation with the Central Government and the Reserve Bank. This I consider to be a very important provision as this will help in coordinating the activities of the different Corporations and will lead to some uniformity of rates, etc. Of course, there must be some difference according to the areas and the availability of funds and the investment possibilities of the Corporation.

2 P.M.

The other clauses are more or less of a procedural and drafting nature. There are some clauses which provide for the management of the industrial concerns to be taken over by the Industrial Finance Corporation. As in the case of the Industrial Finance Corporation, we have provided for an industrial concern to be taken over by the State Financial Corporation for the failure of the concern to redeem its loan. Then there must be some arrangement for running, or disposing of that industrial concern. There are some clauses to that effect and they are more or less of a procedural and drafting nature.

[Shri A. C. Guha]

I hope I have placed before the House the main features of this measure and I hope the House will accept it.

Shri K. K. Basu: I would suggest that we should get some more facts. The hon. Minister has supplied us a statement showing the loans given, but the number of loans advanced and the units to which they were given has not been given. For instance it is said that the textile industry was given Rs. 14 lakhs as loan. It may be that the major portion of this loan may have gone to one concern. Unless we know these details how can we judge to what extent the Financial Corporations have fulfilled the functions for which they were intended.

Shri A. C. Guha: Ten copies of a big report on the working of the State Financial Corporations have been placed in the library.

Shri K. K. Basu: I have seen it. The unfortunate part of it is that you have lumped the information together. Moreover, information is given only industry-wise. For instance it is said that textile mills were given a loan of Rs. 20 lakhs. We do not know among how many concerns this loan was distributed. Supposing a single mill were to get Rs. 18 lakhs out of Rs. 20 lakhs. Our main object is to help the small concerns. According to the legal provisions, the Reserve Bank gets a report; but it is very difficult to know how exactly this has functioned.

Shri Bansal (Jhajjar-Rewari): I strongly support what my hon. friend Shri Basu has said. In fact, this Act was passed in this House in 1951. Since then as many as thirteen State Financial Corporations have come into being. But so far we do not have information in regard to even one State Financial Corporation as to how it has functioned. There is, of course, no provision in the Act that the report should be placed before the House. But I submit for

your consideration that when we are asked to pass an amending Bill in the light of the experience gained so far, the hon. Minister owes it to this House to give us the detailed annual reports on the working of these Financial Corporations, so that we may assess as to how these Corporations have functioned and decide whether the amendments which are being made are reasonable or not reasonable. In the absence of this information, I do not think this House should be asked to proceed with this far-reaching amending Bill. I suggest for your consideration that you may postpone consideration of this Bill unless it is the intention of the hon. the Finance Minister to make a farce out of this amending Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We cannot postpone it before the Consideration Motion is placed before the House. Let me first place the Consideration Motion and then we will decide as to what to do. The hon. Minister has heard the reactions of hon. Members. Perhaps, as we proceed he might collect the information that hon. Members require. I shall request him to collect this information and supply it to hon. Members because of the intense feeling shown by them. I see that he has not got that information just at present.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: That is exactly the reason why some of us wanted this information earlier. We have not got this information to which we are entitled, and we cannot discuss the clauses without that.

Shri K. K. Basu: In the case of West Bengal—which is a commercial and industrial State—I find that only 16 per cent. of the applicants have been granted loans. This is the only information which is contained in the report, of which he says ten copies have been placed in the Library. People are clamouring for loans. Unless he is in a position to give us more information, I suggest that we may postpone discussion of this measure till Monday next, by which time he can give us the information.

Shri A. C. Guha: Enough details have been given. It is not possible for the Central Government to say with all details how many applications were received in each State and the amount which was given to individual applicants. I think if hon. Members read this report which is more than 100 pages they will get enough details for the consideration of this Bill.

Shri K. K. Basu: We have not got that report; the report supplied to us is hardly five or six pages.

Shri Bansal: Give us the hundred-page report and we shall proceed with this Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I should first place the motion before the House.

Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the State Financial Corporations Act, 1951, be taken into consideration."

Now, we may discuss this matter.

Shri Bansal: I hope you will allow me to repeat in brief what I have said.

Most of these Corporations have been functioning since 1951 and up to now 13 Corporations have been established. Every year the report of their working must have been placed before the State Legislatures. What I want is that a copy each of these reports ought to have been placed in the library of this House, if not on the Table of the House. Those of us who have the time and energy would have gone through them.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: Not one, but one for each of the 500 Members.

Shri Bansal: I mean sufficient number of copies. I would not have minded even if one copy of the report on each of the State Finance Corporation had been made available, so that such of us who take interest in these things may have gone through those reports and followed their working. As it is, we are absolutely

in the dark about the working of these bodies.

It was by accident that I happened to be in one consulting committee in Punjab. There a brief summary was given to us of the working of the Punjab Corporation and to my surprise I found that it was a tale of absolute mismanagement. I think it will be borne out if the hon. Minister makes a copy of the report available to us. I, therefore, say that before we are called upon to give our views on this far-reaching amending Bill, we must insist that a copy of the report on the working of these Corporations should be made available to us, so that we can draw our own conclusions and take an intelligent part in the discussions, unless the hon. Minister wants that we must give our seal of approval without understanding anything.

I must say in fairness to the Minister that I have been supplied on my asking him with some information, but I am not satisfied with the information that I have got and I cannot take part in this debate intelligently unless I get the detailed reports on the working of these Corporations as they have been placed before the legislatures. I suggest to the hon. Minister that when he brings forward Bills of this nature, he must place all relevant information before the House. Otherwise, as I said, this debate will be a farce. We will be just putting our seal on a thing which we do not understand and which we have no earthly means of understanding.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: Sir, the Chair would have noticed by now that each one of us want to assist the hon. Minister to get this legislation passed and placed on the statute book. I am sure there is no doubt on that point. But, Shri Guha claims that it is not possible for the Government to give details of the various State corporations. I may say here that when the SRC Bill was considered by the Joint Committee, there was the division of the State corporations. Data was obtained and given to us. It was specifically obtained and supplied to the

[Dr. Lanka Sundaram]

Joint Committee. In other words, Government is in a position to obtain the information if it makes some effort. Unless and until this information is made available, I am afraid that none of us can possibly take part, take an intelligent part in the debate. I strongly endorse the suggestion made by Shri Basu and Shri Bansal that this may be held over. Meanwhile, an attempt may be made by the Minister to circulate to the hon. Members some 30-40 copies; some copies may be obtained and placed on the Table also. Almost each of the States has got a corporation and all of us are anxious that they work in such a way as to benefit the industries for which they were created. To enable us to understand the implications of this Bill, we must have a report on these corporations. So, I hope that you will use your discretion and agree to postpone the debate on this Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it not possible for the hon. Members to proceed with the general discussion for sometime? We may continue for sometime and then we have to take up non-official business. Meanwhile, the hon. Minister may collect and give us that information. What I understood from the objection raised by the hon. Member was that it was difficult to proceed with clause by-by-clause consideration.

Shri A. C. Guha: If the hon. Members want information relating to individual parties applying for loan or getting loan, we have no such information.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They would not be interested in individual parties. The general categories, etc. may be given.

Shri A. C. Guha: It has been given in the papers circulated to them. Copies were also placed in the library. It is there industry-wise. How many industries in each State—is that the information required? I am afraid that information is not available with us.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: He may send a telegram and get the date on Monday.

Shri Bansal: Yesterday, I went to the library and ransacked the entire library up to 4 o'clock. Day before yesterday, there was not a single paper in the library. These reports have been placed in the library perhaps yesterday evening. We have no information whether these reports have been placed there yesterday evening. I do not want information about each individual industry. All I want is that we should get a copy each of the reports that must have been placed on the table of the State Assemblies—reports on the working of the relevant State corporation. Without that, no discussion is possible.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Before I placed the motion before the House, there was certainly a proposal to make a motion for adjournment. Afterwards there is no formal motion made.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: That is understood. If you will permit me, I move a formal motion.

I beg to move:

"That the debate on this Bill be adjourned till Monday or Tuesday or until such time as the Minister furnishes us with this date."

Shri A. C. Guha: This data may not be available; these are not either with the Government or the Reserve Bank.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have no choice. It is for the hon. Members to proceed.

Shri A. C. Guha: Ten copies of the report, etc. containing all the necessary information relevant for the purpose of this Bill have been placed in the library.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The allegation is that the information has been put in the library only yesterday. An hon. Member went to the library several times day before yesterday to look

into these and these were not available. The complaint now is that the time was not sufficient. The hon. Members could not benefit by that information that has been supplied. What is the reaction of the hon. Minister to that complaint? When was this information supplied?

Shri A. C. Guha: This information was made available to us only day before yesterday. Shri Bansal made a request the day before yesterday and he got the report yesterday. We placed these copies in the library also. They were not available with us before. The two hon. Members who have been making this complaint have all got the report.

Shri Bansal: I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. The point is now clinched and we need not go on indefinitely. Some information has been placed in the library only yesterday; it was not available before. The hon. Members want further information but the hon. Minister says that he could not supply any further information. That is finished.

So, now the question is this. The information is in the library but the hon. Members want further time to study that literature.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: Up to this moment, you will have noticed that every hon. Member in this House is willing to assist the Minister to proceed with a proper discussion. I now raise a point of order and I want your formal ruling on it. Times out of number, Bills are brought before this House dealing with the activities of State enterprises and corporations and every time the same plea has been trotted out. You will recollect, Sir, the Sodepur scandal. There was also the difficulty with regard to the Industrial Finance Corporation. There were so many other difficulties and every time the same plea is taken. I am prepared to satisfy you and the

House that he can and must obtain the information and help us to get that information. When the SRC Bill was being discussed, we were supplied with copies of the debates of every State legislature. Without committing a breach of the privilege, I may say that in the Joint Committee on the SRC Bill when the question of the division of the Industrial Finance Corporation of the Bombay State came up for consideration, a telegraphic request was made to the Bombay Government. The reports were obtained. A sub-committee was appointed and then we proceeded with the discussion. I seek the protection of the Chair in this case also.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member has raised a very wide question. That can be dealt with exhaustively on some other occasion. For the present, we are concerned with this. Of course, I will look into that point also.

For the present, we are concerned with this situation which has arisen just now. I can very well see the anxiety of the hon. Members to have the requisite information. I would ask the Minister to supply all the information that he can possibly supply so that it will facilitate the Members to have a useful discussion in this House.

Now, the hon. Members want further time to study the literature in the library. I cannot give a ruling whether the information that is available in the library is sufficient or not without going through that.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: We must get the 100 page document; only eight pages are given to us.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is a formal motion that the discussion be adjourned.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: I moved that the discussion be adjourned till such time as the hon. Minister was in a position to supply us all the reports.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It cannot be put in that form. Then, it may have

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

to be determined whether the information has been sufficient or not.

The present motion would be that the discussion on the motion made by the Minister be adjourned. I shall put it to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That discussion on the motion 'that the Bill further to amend the State Financial Corporation Act, 1951, be taken into consideration' be adjourned."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We will now take up the Indian Railways (Amendment) Bill.

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): Sir, I rise on a point of order with regard to this matter. Yesterday in the Order Paper this Bill, the Indian Railways (Amendment) Bill, was shown fairly low down in the list and on normal, ordinary computation I thought that it would be reached only tomorrow. I would submit, Sir,—I do not know whether other hon. Members are in the same position as myself—that I had intended to give notice of amendments to this Bill today so as to be in time for the consideration of the Bill tomorrow. So, if the Bill is taken up today, I do not know how much time is allotted for it and whether there would be time for sending in the amendments. May I know how much time has been allotted?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Three hours.

Shri Kamath: That means the amendments will be in time tomorrow also. Then it is all right.

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890, as

passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I think I owe a word of apology to the House for bringing this measure so late before it. The Bill was adopted by the Rajya Sabha three years back, and it was not possible to bring it before this House all these months and years. It is doubtful whether I would have got an opportunity even now but for the despatch with which this House has been transacting legislative business in the current session. At the same time, I should hasten to add that what the bill seeks to achieve already been enforced and, is under operation on all the Railways. The Bill when passed would simply invest what already obtains with regard to hours of work, periods of rest, etc., with the status of a statute.

The Bill, as has been stated, deals with questions relating to the hours of work, rest, overtime etc. of railway staff. The two conventions of Washington and Geneva relating to hours of work and rest were implemented in 1930 by amending the Indian Railways act. Under this amending Act, railway servants were divided into three categories—continuous workers, intermittent workers and excluded workers. The hours of work for continuous workers were 60 in a week and of intermittent workers were 84. Continuous workers were also entitled to one day's rest in a week. The running staff were excluded from the scope of these rules. These provisions had been in force for only a few years when the staff began putting forward demands for further reducing the hours of work. Ever since 1940, the workers had been putting forward these demands and as no agreement could be reached between the Railways and the representatives of the workers, it was mutually agreed in 1946 to refer the questions to adjudication. The Adjudicator gave his award in 1947. His recommendations were accepted by