

SHRI B. V. NAIK While Cochin Madras, Bombay and Calcutta are serving the States of Kerala Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Bengal, only four other States left are Karnataka, Gujarat, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. When the business of Marine Export Corporation has jumped by 200 per cent, why is it not possible to answer squarely the question of Shri Gangadeb From Karnataka, they are making profits from export of fish. Under the circumstances, why is it that each maritime State is not given a branch or regional office? What are the constraints in the way?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH The export from Karnataka, Mangalore Port, is only 7 per cent of the total export.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY What about Andhra?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH Out of the total export valued at Rs 124 crores only Rs one crore and 86 lakhs is from Visakhapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh.

So, this is the one factor which we have to see. Then there is the question of finance for opening these branch offices.

Distribution of Consumer Loans in Villages

*608 **SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the arrangements being made for the distribution of consumer loans in villages, and

(b) the amount of consumer loans distributed in rural areas so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI

PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) - (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

There is at present very limited arrangements in villages for purveying pure consumption loans as apart from production loan. Only recently the Reserve Bank of India has permitted the primary agricultural credit societies to advance from the co-operatives own resources consumption loans to a non-defaulting member upto 10 per cent of his short-term loan subject to a limit of Rs 250. From the information available the primary co-operative societies of Maharashtra and Kerala have started giving consumption loans to weaker sections of the community as a percentage of production loan against mortgage of moveable properties like utensils, radio sets, cycles, watches etc. to landless agricultural labourers or rural artisans.

Some of the commercial banks have lately formulated schemes in an attempt to meet some part of the consumption needs of the poorer sections of the village society. A synopsis of the schemes etc. pertaining to the consumption credit formulated by different public sector banks is given at statement 'A'. It will be observed that in the commercial banking system also loans for consumption purposes are by and large linked with the production activity of the borrower.

The Regional Rural Banks have been permitted to extend consumption credit for medical and educational purposes along with production loans.

Since the principle of giving consumption loans on a limited scale as a part of production loan in rural areas has been adopted only recently, the actual amount of loan so far given exclusively for consumption purposes in the rural areas is not available.

Statement 'A'

Synopsis of the schemes, etc. pertaining to the consumption credit formulated by different public sector banks.

Bank of India: The Bank has formulated a scheme for financing released bonded labourers for providing consumption loan. These loans are, however, linked to production loans. The purposes and the quantum of loan for each purpose are indicated below:

- (i) Medical expenditure—Upto Rs. 250
- (ii) Educational expenditure—Rs. 25 per child—maximum Rs. 75
- (iii) Social acts—Rs. 125.

The total limit for all loans per borrower is Rs. 400.

Punjab National Bank: A scheme has been recently introduced under which consumption loans for modest amounts are available to small farmers and agricultural labourers. But such loans are granted only for general consumption needs and not for wasteful expenditure on marriages, dowries or post-funeral rituals.

Canara Bank: The bank formulated a scheme for extending financial assistance to small/marginal farmers when they suffer acute distress due to floods, drought, famine etc. The scheme provide for a maximum loan of Rs. 1000 per person.

Bank of Maharashtra: The bank has formulated a scheme under which loans for meeting farmers' daily subsistence till the crops are harvested and marketed, are given. This scheme is only meant for the benefit of the Adivasis in Thana District.

Central Bank of India: The bank has formulated a scheme for the areas where debt relief legislation is in force. Under the scheme, marginal farmers, landless labourers or rural

artisans and other small borrowers whose annual house-hold income does not exceed Rs. 2400 are given loans mainly for medical and educational expenses.

United Bank of India: A scheme for meeting the medical and educational expenses of needy farmers is under preparation.

Dena Bank: The bank has formulated two schemes one for providing financial assistance to landless farmers to whom land is being allotted by State Governments under the 20-Point Economic Programme and the other for the released bonded labourers. Under the former scheme, consumption credit requirement is linked with production credit requirement. The maximum total loan available under the scheme is Rs. 5000 per borrower including the consumption component. The landless/marginal farmers to whom land is allotted by the State Governments are eligible for these loans.

Indian Bank: The consumption loan is limited to Rs. 1000 per individual against pledge of gold ornaments. The purposes for which such loan is given have not been defined.

Allahabad Bank: The bank has formulated a scheme for providing financial assistance to tribal farmers and landless farmers who have been allotted lands by the State Governments. The loan is limited to Rs. 200 per family of farmers at a flat rate.

Union Bank: The bank has formulated a scheme under which consumption loan is given for meeting the expenses of loanee farmers for meeting their medical and educational expenses. This loan is linked to production credit and does not exceed 50 per cent of the amount of crop loan or Rs. 500, whichever is less.

Bank of Baroda: The bank provides for small consumption loan upto Rs. 500 to landless labourers and released

bonded labourers who are allotted land for cultivation. This amount is given in addition to crop and other production loans.

United Commercial Bank: The bank has introduced schemes for providing consumption loans to farmers for meeting their educational and medical expenses. These loans are linked to production loans.

Syndicate Bank: The bank has not drawn up any specific scheme but has been giving loans at the rate of Rs. 30 against security of one gramme of gold to all sections of rural population for meeting their consumption needs.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA: Accordingly to the statement it appears that there is a tendency to link consumption loan with production. This will relegate the question of consumption loan to the background. The present position is that our rural areas are such that 80 per cent of our rural families have to borrow money both for production and consumption. A sizeable portion of the rest also needs money occasionally. For the latter, it is not distress but for the former, it is entirely a question of distress borrowing. This situation has actually led to the introduction of the evils of the bonded labour and distress sale of foodgrains and holdings. Another aspect of this matter is that these loans are not required in lump sum. They are required in bits; some to-day, some after three months, then another amount after 6 months. Recent legislations have accentuated the trouble in rural areas, with regard to these loans. May I inform the House and the hon. Members that the sources of rural credit supply have nearly dried up? May I know how soon it is proposed to set up an alternative organization for meeting this very vital need of these people?

SHRI PRANB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: I do agree with the hon. Members that the requirement of the rural credit, both for production and con-

sumption, is a very important problem; and in view of the fact that moratorium has been declared on rural indebtedness, and in certain cases it has been scaled down, the problem has assumed more dimensions; and it is known to the hon. Members of the House that a working group was set up to sort out that problem and to suggest remedial measures by which we can come into the rural areas, and to fill the gap which has been created by the withdrawal of the money-lenders. The Sivaraman Committee have submitted their recommendations to me on the 26th of this month; and they are under the consideration of the Government. They have recommended certain measures. We are already taking the initiative, along with the States, to implement them. But apart from it, the hon. Member will find, if they look at the Annexure which I have given to the reply, that certain banks have already taken up various schemes to provide consumption loans to the rural people. The whole question is how we can augment it and how we can bring in more credit into the rural areas. Apart from it, the institution which is basically meant to meet the rural requirements, is the regional rural bank. Perhaps the hon. Members would appreciate that since December, we have increased the number of regional rural banks from 6 to 20. They are expanding their branches. We are aware of the problem and we are trying to sort it out as expeditiously as possible.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA: According to the statement, cooperative societies are already advancing consumption loans at least in Kerala and Maharashtra; but it is not so in other States. Besides, some banks also are advancing, or planning to advance, consumption loans. May I know whether there is any proposal before the Government to advance such loans on concessional rate of interest, particularly to small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: All these points have been looked into by the Committee. Unless we arrive at a final decision on the recommendations of the Committee, it may not be possible for me to indicate what concrete and positive steps we are going to take. So far as the differential rates of interests are concerned, it is known to the hon Members that at present, the rate is not linked to any particular community or to any particular class. These banks are spread over 265 out of 375 districts in the country. But there too, we are considering in what way we can link it up with certain specific projects and mainly so, for the development of the more weak sections of the community.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : अध्यक्ष जी, आप भी गांव से आते हैं और वहां की हालत से परिचित हैं। मंत्री जी ने जो दरल इन-डेस्टेडनेस को खत्म कर दिया है तो उस का नतीजा यह है कि गांवों में जो गरीब आदमी है उन को कर्जा लेने के लिये अपने जेवर गिरवी रखने पड़ते हैं। पहले तो उस को शरीर से काम करने पर कर्जा मिल जाता था लेकिन बांडेड जेवर खत्म होने से अब उस तरह से कर्जा मिलना बन्द हो गया है। अब थोड़ा बहुत जो उस के घर में जेवर है उस को गिरवी रख कर वह कर्जा लेता है। अगर चार रुपये का जेवर है तो उस को एक रुपया ही कर्जा मिलता है। अगर वह भी 24 परसेन्ट इन्ट्रैस्ट पर। अगर वह समय पर पैसा वापस नहीं करता है तो उसके घर का सारा जेवर चला जाता है। अब मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि हम ने रीजनल बैंक खोल दिये हैं। वहां पर जो लोक लीन लेने के लिये जाते हैं वे तो अपनी भाषा भोजपुरी बोलते हैं जोकि रीजनल बैंक वालों की समझ में नहीं आती है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप ही देहली के रहने वाले हैं, आप खुद जानते हैं। इसलिये मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पहले कि यह बीमारी लोगों को खा जाय, हमारी सरकार कोई दवा करने को तैयार है? अगर है तो क्या आप बतावेंगे कि आपने क्या सुझाव इन दरल बैंक को दिये हैं और आपकी भाषा क्या योजना है?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: That is only one area which he is referring to, so far as a regional rural bank is concerned. There too I do not know why they are not using the local languages, which are understandable to the people. We have instructed them to follow the regional languages, which are understandable to the ordinary workers. We shall look into why Bhojpuri is not used by the regional rural bank.

We are emphasizing the importance of having a large number of credit societies and primary societies at each and every village so that the commercial banks, the regional rural banks co-operative credit societies, all of them could put their might together and take care of the problem.

Regarding the urgency of the problem, I have already submitted to the hon. Member that the report has just been received. They have made some major recommendations, particularly one for instant expansion of credit societies.

Regarding the pattern which has been followed by Maharashtra and Kerala, whether the State Governments can build up that immediately and, if so, what help they would not require from us, this is a matter which we discussed at the State Chief Ministers' Conference. We are again taking up the matter with them and urging them to deal with it with the utmost urgency so that before the next kharrif

season we can begin to operate in the field of rural credit with institutional arrangements.

SHRI D. N. TIWARI: It is not clear from the statement laid on the Table of the House as to what arrangements have been made in each State for the distribution of consumption loans, because the statement simply says that this bank or that bank has been opened. In those areas where the per capita income is the lowest and the people are in dire necessity of consumption loan, specially in States like Bihar, north Bihar particularly, and eastern UP, what arrangements have been made so that the people might take advantage of this and be free from hunger?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE I do appreciate the concern of the hon. Member. But, at the same time, perhaps, one point we shall have to keep in mind. It may not be possible for us to take care of the entire problem of the consumption loans immediately. Because, after all the resources which will have to be ploughed back in the rural areas are unlimited. At the same time, we shall have to see that at least a part of the consumption loan is provided for medicine, education, to sustain the farmer till the harvesting period is over. Therefore, the illustrations which are indicated in Annexure A are merely illustrative, which are operating in limited areas. We want to extend it. The agencies which are functioning are branches of commercial banks, regional rural banks, cooperative credit societies and farmers service societies. Even the State Government administrative machineries like the revenue administration are augmenting their staff. We are trying to pool the resources of all the agencies to take care of the problem.

श्री नरसिंह नारायण शर्मा : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी ने कोई रिपोर्ट रिजर्वल हरल बैंक से मंगायी है जो ग्राम में बोलें है जिस से वह मालूम हो सके कि जो माजिनल क सब माजिनल किसान है, उन को कितना

कंजन्शन लोन प्राप्त हो पाये है ? क्या यह बात भी सही है और क्या ग्राम इसकी जांच करावेंगे कि उनमें पैसा जमा करने की प्रवृत्ति ज्यादा है बनिस्वत किसानों को लोन देने के ? क्या ग्राम इन रिजर्वल हरल बैंक से कोई स्टेट-मेंट्स मंगवा कर जांच करेंगे कि ये बैंक किस तरह से काम कर रहे हैं ? मेरे क्षेत्र में भी रिजर्वल बैंक खुला है, उसी के माध्यम पर मैं यह सब पूछ रहा हूँ।

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE. The hon. Member would appreciate that the regional rural banks have just started coming up. During the last two weeks I have inaugurated at least three banks. So it is not yet time to call for any report from any of them. At the same time, some banks have started operating from the 2nd October. The whole purpose of setting up the regional rural banks is to help the small and marginal farmers, landless labour and poor artisans. We are making a constant review. But I may inform the hon. Member that these organisations have also their limitations, because the problem is so vast and the institutional arrangements are so meagre, that in spite of our best effort we cannot reach them. We asked the Committee to look into what other alternative agencies can be established to supplement the existing arrangements. That is why we are expressing our doubts on the recommendations of the Working Group. On the basis of that we will take care of the problem.

Construction of Airports in Eastern India

*609 **SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state—

(a) whether Civil Aviation Department is constructing more airports in the country; and