

Commerce, a statement was issued in his name to the effect that in case the prices of cotton go on rising, Government would be forced to import cotton from other countries. If that is true, how did he say today that we are not importing?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: What I stated the other day on the floor of the House, while replying to the discussion on the Demands for Grants, was that if the prices continue to rise in the manner they did, Government may have to think of importing. But the sources of importation, I did not indicate. What I am saying today is that it is not from Pakistan that we are thinking of import. So, I am not contradicting what I said before.

राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों में इनामी योजना

*796. श्री चिरंजीव झा : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का विशार डक घर बचत बैंक पुरस्कार प्रोत्साहन योजना की तरह राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों में भी इनामी योजना आरम्भ करने का है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी मुख्य बातें क्या हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE & BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

It is for the banks, subject to the interest rates stipulations of the Reserve Bank of India, to formulate different schemes of deposit mobilisation, including those containing an element of prize, to meet the requirements of the potential depositors they seek to motivate. Reserve Bank have reported that many public sector banks are already having schemes which contain an element of prize.

श्री चिरंजीव झा : श्रीमान् जो विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा गया है उसमें कहा गया है कि सरकारी क्षेत्र के कई बैंकों की योजनायें चल रही हैं जिनमें इनामी योजनायें भी शामिल हैं। मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सेक्टर बैंक आफ इंडिया और स्टेट बैंक आफ इंडिया की ऐसी कोई योजना है या नहीं ? अगर है तो उसका विवरण क्या है ?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: To the first part of the question my answer is "No". There are some specific schemes about prize and, if he wants to know the details, I can give them. For example, under the scheme of the Central Bank, a depositor has to keep a minimum balance of Rs. 400 in his savings account throughout the calendar year. The prizes are consumer articles like refrigerator, TV sets etc. There are also lucky draws. Similar type of schemes are introduced by the State Bank also. For example, a subsidiary of the State Bank has a scheme for a lucky draw of a Fiat car. Apart from that, certain banks offer incentives by advertising for deposits, particularly for longer period. They compound the interest and pay it monthly. There is another scheme under which a deposit of Rs. 5,000 within a period of 20 years would become Rs. 35,000. So, various schemes are being introduced and as a result of it the deposits are going up to our satisfaction.

श्री चिरंजीव झा : श्रीमान् दूसरा प्रश्न मेरा यह है कि इस तरह की योजना के चालू होने से बैंकों में जमा होने वाली राशि में कितने प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है तथा इस तरह से इनाम कितनी राशि के कितने लोगों को दिये गये हैं ?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Taking all the scheduled commercial banks, from 1969 to the end of December 1975 the deposit has gone up by 190 per cent.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH. May I know whether by introducing these incentive schemes there has been an appreciable increase in deposit mobilisation in the rural areas, because there is a feeling that in the rural areas deposit mobilisation is not as satisfactory as expected?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Rather, the impression is otherwise, because on the floor of the House I was confronted with the question that though we were mobilising more resources from the rural areas, we were not ploughing it back into those areas. There has been an expansion of the branches in the rural areas of the commercial banks, and it is known to the hon. Members that within a span of six years these have increased from 1,700 to 7,000. Hence, correspondingly deposits are also increasing.

DR. RANEN SEN: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that due to these prize schemes there is a sort of unholy and unseemly competition among the nationalised banks, as a result of which the Reserve Bank is thinking of streamlining the whole thing and making it standardised? If so, have the Government considered the question how to combat this unseemly and unholy competition among the nationalised banks?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Sometimes the attention of the Government and the Reserve Bank has been drawn to this point that some sort of unethical modes are being resorted to in the competition for getting more deposits, and from time to time the Reserve Bank issues the necessary administrative instructions, but this is an area where the banks are expected to operate on their own subject to the guideline that they cannot give more than 10 per cent rate of interest. Whenever a certain aberration takes place in any place, we issue the necessary instructions to them.

श्री राजावतार शास्त्री : वक्तव्य से पता चलता है कि इनाम देने की व्यवस्था करने के बाद जमा राशि में प्रायात्तीत सफलता मिल रही है। जब ऐसी बात है तो क्या सरकार तमाम राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों में इस तरह इनाम देने की प्रथा चालू करने का विचार रखती है ?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: I have already mentioned that all the nationalised banks have some sort of incentive in the form of prizes, but perhaps it is not correct to say that the deposits are coming only because of these incentives, because, as more branches are being opened, people get opportunities of depositing in banks.

Request by Punjab Government for Loan from Nationalised Banks for construction of houses

*797, **SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab Government has approached the Central Government for assistance through the nationalised banks and other financial institutions for advancing loans for construction of houses; and

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken thereon?

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

Punjab Government approached the Central Government for loan assistance at differential rates of interest through the Life Insurance Corporation of India for construction of houses on the house-sites allotted to the landless workers under a scheme framed by them for the provision of house sites to the landless workers in rural