

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, what if any do we get in return from the United States of America?

Mr. Speaker: I think it is no use going into that question.

WEST BENGAL BANKS

***2163. Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) if there has been any approach to the Reserve Bank of India from scheduled and Co-operative Banks of West Bengal to allow them discounting facilities as regards loans to tea gardens under Section 17 of the Reserve Bank Act;

(b) if so, what decision has been arrived at in the matter?

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): (a) No scheduled or Co-operative bank in West Bengal has so far approached the Reserve Bank for rediscounting facilities under Section 17 of the Reserve Bank of India Act for the specific purpose of providing finance to tea gardens.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is the Government aware that some foreign banks are lending money on the hypothecation of standing tea crops?

Shri Tyagi: I have no information just now in my pad, but I might say that the European companies generally do not want any finance from the banks here. Probably, they may be having finance from banks outside.

Shri A. C. Guha: The hon. Minister said that no scheduled or co-operative banks have approached the Reserve Bank. May I know if there has been any approach from any other quarter to the Reserve Bank for financing the standing tea crops?

Shri Tyagi: No, Sir. On the other hand, offers were made to the tea industry that they could contact the banks for financial facilities.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether after the amendment of the Reserve Bank Act a sort of enquiry was started by the Government for the financing of tea crops, and if so, what has been the result of that enquiry?

Shri Tyagi: In response to a question put here by Mr. U. N. Barman, the Reserve Bank of India was requested to depute some officer and they deputed one. According to the report of that officer, the European-owned tea gardens represent about 80 per cent.

of the total Indian tea industry and it is only the remaining 20 per cent. of the industry that is owned by Indians. The European section of the industry is not experiencing any special financial difficulties, but to 90 per cent. of the Indian-owned gardens also do not experience much difficulty in obtaining short-term finance from banks. Only 10 per cent. of the total number of Indian tea gardens, principally small proprietary gardens in Assam, are reported to have experienced difficulties in raising finance, but the reason is not so much the lack of banking finance as that of the fact that these small gardens are too small to function as economic units and as such banks do not consider it a good banking risk to make large advances to them.

Shri A. C. Guha: Since there is at present a crisis in the tea industry, may I know whether since this enquiry there has been any change in the situation as regards Indian-owned tea gardens?

Shri Tyagi: I have no information about the change, but I may add for the information of the hon. Member that the Reserve Bank of India could not render any direct assistance to the tea gardens for the purpose of tea financing. The only facility lying within the present scope of the Act is the rediscounting of bills by scheduled and co-operative banks provided the bills bear signatures. The Reserve Bank's decision to extend re-discounting facilities to scheduled and co-operative banks in respect of letters of credit and loans to tea gardens was brought to the notice of the Central Tea Board by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in May last, but so far no scheduled or co-operative bank in West Bengal has availed of that facility for financing tea gardens.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether the committee that was going into this matter last month has made any recommendation in this respect?

Shri Tyagi: An enquiry committee was sent from here to Assam, South India and Kangra valley tea gardens and they have submitted their report. It is still under consideration and it is too premature for me to comment on the report.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Is the Government aware that owing to the curtailment of financial facilities some of the Assam tea gardens have threatened to serve notices on labourers?

Shri Tyagi: I am afraid I could not make out what "curtailment of financial facilities" means.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Because tea prices have fallen, to that extent the banks have curtailed their financial facilities. Therefore the difficulty has arisen.

Shri Tyagi: The Industrial Finance Corporation also expressed their willingness to extend long-term credit facilities to tea gardens which are public limited companies against the security of machinery and buildings. This was specifically brought to the notice of the Tea Board, but they did not avail themselves of this facility.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

*2164. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that detailed systematic mapping and mineral survey was continued in the Eastern Circle of the Geological Survey of India in 1951-52; and

(b) if so, what are the places surveyed with results?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement giving the information available is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 33.]

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, the reason why the Kashmir valley and the Telchira oil seepage area in the Khasi States Union in the border of Assam-Pakistan were not re-examined in this year and whether Government propose to re-examine them in the next year?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I cannot say anything specific about these areas.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether the B.O.C. geologists asked for any help of our Geological experts for Petrographical survey in Assam?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am not aware of that.

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): Eastern Circle means Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa.

Shri S. C. Samanta: In the Geological Survey of India published by Government, I find that Assam is also included in the Eastern Area. So, I put the question.

Jonab Amjad Ali: May I know why Assam is excluded from the Eastern circle.

مولانا آزاد : گورنمنٹ نے کام کی آسانی کے لئے الگ سرکل بنائے ہیں۔ اگر اس میں آسام نہیں ہے تو اس کا مطالبہ یہ نہیں ہے کہ آسام چھوڑ دیا گیا ہے۔ وہ دوسرے سرکل میں ہوگا۔ ہمارے پاس جو رپورٹ اس وقت ہے اس میں یہ لکھا ہے کہ ایسٹرن سرکل میں ویسٹ بنگال، بہار اور اڑیسہ ہے۔

[**Maulana Azad:** Government have formed separate circles in this connection for the sake of convenience. If Assam is not included in a particular circle, it does not mean that it has been excluded. It might be included in some other circle. The report that is before us at present says that West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa constitute the Eastern Circle.]

جناب امجد علی : کیا میں جان

سکتا ہوں کہ آسام کس سرکل میں ہے ؟

[**Jonab Amjad Ali:** May I know the circle in which Assam is included?]

مولانا آزاد : میں اس وقت نہیں

بتا سکتا۔

[**Maulana Azad:** I cannot give this information offhand.]

श्री एस० ती० सामन्त : क्या मैं मंत्री महोदय से जान सकता हूँ कि ऐम्बेस्टस के बारे में जो अनुसंधान सराय केला और सिंह-भूम जिलों में हुए हैं उनसे पहले इस के बारे में कोई अनुसंधान हुए थे या नहीं ?

श्री के० डी० मालवीय : पहले के बारे में मैं नहीं कह सकता पर जो आफिसरें