Title: Discussion on the motion for consideration of the Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2009 moved by Shri Namo Narain Meena (Bill Passed).

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No.18

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Madam Speaker, on behalf of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

The Basic objective of the LIC (Amendment) Bill, 2009 is to bring the LIC Act, 1956 in consonance with the Insurance Act, 1938 as amended from time to time.

The LIC (Amendment) Bill, 2009 was introduced in the 15th Lok Sabha on 31st July, 2009. It was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance (2009-10) for examination and report.

The Standing Committee presented its report to the Parliament on 12th March, 2010. Based on the report of the Standing Committee, the Government propose to introduce amendments to the LIC (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

13.22 hrs.

(Dr. M. Thambidurai in the Chair)

The LIC (Amendment) Bill, 2009, *inter alia*, proposes to provide for raising minimum capital of the LIC from Rs. 5 crore to Rs. 100 crore to make it in consonance with the provisions under the Insurance Act, 1938, empower LIC to make regulations in respect of terms and conditions of the Agents and to enable LIC to create a Reserve Fund to be utilized for expansion of LIC's business and implementing various social sector schemes.

As regards this Bill, the Government have accepted almost all the major recommendations of the Committee including maintaining the sovereign guarantee to the LIC policies, enable LIC to raise other forms of capital for meeting their working capital requirements, allow LIC to retain the powers of opening new branches while following the broad guidelines etc. I would like to further elaborate that the amendment, as proposed on page 2, line 19, regarding the extent of Government guarantee has been dropped as per the recommendation of the Standing Committee.

The original Section 37 regarding policies to be guaranteed by the Central Government remains as it is, that is, the sovereign guarantee will continue. In addition, a proviso has been added advising LIC to maximize returns on funds for the benefits of the policy holders. This is in accordance with the advice of the Standing Committee. However, recommendations of the Standing Committee under Clause 5 pertaining to the distribution of valuation surplus could not be accepted because provisions should be kept in accordance with the provisions of Section 49 of the Insurance Act, 1938 which is applicable to all the insurance companies in the country. This would also allow Life Insurance business expansion, strengthen solvency margins and help in fulfilling corporate social responsibility.

The operation of this amendment will be with the prospective effect and will be applicable to new policies from the date of notification. Further, in Clauses 8 and 9 (i), it is proposed to shift framing of rules with respect to terms and conditions of agents by the Central Government and empowering LIC to frame regulations with the previous approval of the Central Government. These amendments would give flexibility to LIC to take care of the professional training needs of the agents and their welfare which is in line with the spirit of the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI (HAVERI): Sir, at the outset I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my views on the Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2009, a Bill further to amend the Life Insurance Act, 1956. I would also like to thank my party for giving me this opportunity to express my views and debate on this Bill.

Sir, before going into the crux of the Bill, I would like to throw some light on the insurance sector and how it came into existence in this country after Independence. Before Independence there were about 200 private companies which operated in the insurance sector but after nationalization in 1956, the Life Insurance Corporation was formed in this

country. LIC started with a working capital of Rs. 5 crore from the Central Government and now this has grown into a robust institution with a surplus fund of Rs.7,00,000 crore having a solvency margin of more than Rs. 40,000 crore. This has become possible because the Government had provided for some sovereign guarantee to this institution. The hon. Finance Minister in his initial remarks said that the sovereign guarantee of this institution has been retained. It has not been evoked. The view of our party is that the sovereign guarantee should not ever be removed because the policy holders of LIC is more than 26 crore and there are about 13.5 lakh agents and about 1.25 lakh employees working in this organization. So, removal of the sovereign guarantee will adversely affect the growth of the LIC which has a social role in the development of the economy. It has so far played a very important role in the growth of our country.

So, according to me, LIC should be viewed in the context of the social role that it plays and the social obligation it fulfils. Also, the Government should keep in mind the faith and trust which was the driving force for the growth of the Life Insurance Corporation of India. So, it should not just be viewed as an national institution but should be viewed as an institution of national integrity and its symbol should be viewed as a symbol of security for the people.

Sir, so my request to the hon. Finance Minister, through you, would be that the LIC of India should not be compared or equated with the private players who have entered into the fray of insurance after the amendment of the IRDA Act in 1999.

So, due to social obligations and social endeavours, the LIC is doing it and hence, 26 crore people are holding the policies. As you all know, *Aam Aadmi Jeevan Bima* Insurance Policy has been started by the LIC in 2007. The hon. Finance Minister of this country has inaugurated this policy in Shimla. This *Aam Aadmi Jeevan Bima* is giving insurance to households which are having no land. Under this policy, around 1.3 crore people have been benefited and the growth is going to be exponential in rural areas for which the local State Governments and the Government of India are providing the premium. In view of the social endeavour which the organisation is taking up, I would request the Government not to ever curtail the present status. On these aspects, I want to express my points of view which are covered in the Bill.

Firstly, I will speak on Section 2 of the Bill which deals with the capital of the Corporation.

"The paid-up equity capital of the Corporation shall be one hundred crores of rupees provided by the Central Government after due appropriation made by Parliament by law for the purpose and which may be enhanced to such an amount as the Central Government may, by notification, determine."

This is only unwarranted. As I said earlier, the Corporation has a solvency margin of more than Rs. 40,000 crore and IRDA says that any insurance company has to provide solvency margin in line with the size of its business. I think that it is only unwarranted. On the face of it, any increase in the capital has to be welcome. But this increase in capital is being proposed in the background of the Malhotra Committee recommendations for disinvestment of LIC. Here, the move of the Government raises several other issues like primarily giving a signal that sometimes the Government may offload a part of its share to the private sector, be it Indian or foreign. This is proved by merely substituting it by a notification and by doing this, the Government is taking away the sovereignty and supremacy of Parliament.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to confine the amount to only Rs. 100 crore. Any further increase or rise in the capital in excess of Rs. 100 crore, if and when required, may be provided by the Central Government through appropriation made by Parliament and by moving an amendment to this effect in principal Act governing LIC. So, I urge upon the Government to confine this limit to only Rs. 100 crore and suitable amendments should be made in this Bill.

Coming to Section 18 of the principal Act, sub-Section 4 has been removed. This point is regarding the opening of branches. Once again, the rationale on which the Government has been acting is as per enactment of the IRDA which says that all insurance companies should have a level-playing field. The permission to open up new branches was confined only to LIC. Now, after the enactment of the IRDA, the power will go to IRDA as regards the opening up of branches.

As I said earlier, its social endeavour and vast rural growth which it has made in the country should be taken into account. The number of customers as of now is around 26 crores and it is likely to reach the mark of 50 crores in the next five to six years. So, there is an immediate need for increasing the number of zonal offices and also opening more number of branches in the rural areas.

Hence, omission of sub-section 4 will lead to more delays and confusion in monitoring the Government machinery for sanction of new branches and small offices. So, I would like to say that sub-Sections 2 and 3 should be considered for suitable amendments and omission of sub-Section 4 should be considered for dropping off.

Here also, the power is being taken away and the Act does not say about any alternate as to whom it should go. This sort

of clarity should be there in the Bill. I do not find merits in the proposed amendments and in future, this might have a negative effect in limiting the branch expansion of the LIC.

Coming to Section 28 of the principal Act, it deals with the surplus from the insurance business and how it should be utilized. As regards this, I heard the hon. Minister saying that it has not been removed. I want a clarification on this point as to whether it has been brought to 90 from 95. I would like to be clarified on that.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: I said in my opening remarks that the recommendations of the Standing Committee of clause 5 pertaining to distribution of valuation surplus could not be accepted because the provision should be kept in accordance with the provisions of Section 49 of the Insurance Act, 1939, which is applicable to all the insurance companies in the country. It means it was 95:5. Now we are bringing it to 90:10. But, again I would like to clarify that the operation of this amendment will be with prospective effect and will be applicable for the new policies from the date of notification. It means all other companies are having 90:10 and we want to bring the LIC on the same pattern.

SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI: Thank you for your intervention.

Basically what is happening is that the 26 crores policy holders have bought the policy under the impression that the surplus dividend will be given on the basis of 95 per cent as per the Principal Act. Now, you are making it 90 per cent with prospective effect. From 1999 to this date, 23 companies have entered the market. In spite of your sovereign guarantee, in spite of your 95 per cent surplus dividend sharing – now you are going to have it on par with other private players – the market share of the LIC has eroded from 35 per cent and it has gone to the private players. In the policy selling they have lost around 29 per cent, without this Bill coming into effect. If you do this now, most of the people will go to private players, whereby you are demoralizing a Government organization like the LIC, which is having a social responsibility. You are demoralizing the institution. I urge upon the Government to have 95 per cent for the prospective buyers also. This is our Party's view. You please consider this because the Standing Committee has also recommended the same to you.

Then, I am coming to Section 37 of the Bill. It is said that for the words "by the Central Government" the words "to the extent as the Central Government may by order from time to time determine" shall be substituted. The hon. Minister has already stated that in his opening remarks the sovereign guarantee will be retained. So, I am not opposing this because the Standing Committee and other stakeholders, like the employees of the LIC, had asked for it. I congratulate the Government for retaining the sovereign guarantee. Otherwise, it would have hampered the growth of the LIC.

Now, I come to last two Sections of the Amendment Bill, Sections 48 and 49 dealing with powers to make rules and regulations. In this, the licensing and regulation of the service conditions of the entire population of agents would be under the purview of the IRDA. The LIC agents, in particular, is a large self-employed group who have been instrumental in propagating the importance of life insurance as a means of social security. When I was a child, I used to see that whenever an LIC agent used to come to my place in the village, he used to sell that policy, not as a risk-oriented business, but as a social security device. He would tell the policy holders to have the policy as a retirement plan, etc. So, curbing the powers of the agents who are basically from the rural areas, by amending this Section, will affect their livelihood. So, I am of the view that it would be preferable to continue with the existing legal provision relating to terms and conditions of the LIC agents because they are mainly in the rural areas. You have to see that their livelihood is not affected.

With this I conclude my speech and I would request the hon. Minister, through you, to consider our Party's views on this Bill and accordingly pass it.

भी हरीभ चौधरी (बाइमेर): महोदय, मैं जीवन बीमा निगम (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2009 के समर्थन में बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं। भारत में इंश्योरेंस सेवटर लगभग 1000 बीसी से चला आ रहा हैं। उस वक्त कम्युनिटी इंश्योरेंस के माध्यम से आर्यन लोग अपने राज्य में इंश्योरेंस करते थें। वर्ष 1818 में पहली लाइफ इंश्योरेंस कम्पनी, ओरिएंटल लाइफ इंश्योरेंस कम्पनी भारत में शुरू हुई थीं। वर्ष 1870 के अन्दर पहली भारतीय लाइफ इंश्योरेंस कम्पनी बॉम्बे म्युनुअल लाइफ इंश्योरेंस सोसायटी बनी थीं। वर्ष 1947 के अन्दर लगभग 245 लाइफ इंश्योरेंस, भारतीय एवं विदेशी लाइफ इंश्योरेंस कंपनियों का राष्ट्रीयकरण होकर इसी पार्लियामेंट के माध्यम से बिल बनकर और उनके रेम्युलेशंस बनकर और पांच करोड़ रूपये के कैपिटल से लाइफ इंश्योरेंस कंपनियों का राष्ट्रीयकरण होकर इसी पार्लियामेंट के माध्यम से बिल बनकर और उनके रेम्युलेशंस बनकर और पांच करोड़ रूपये के कैपिटल से लाइफ इंश्योरेंस कंपनियों का राष्ट्रीयकरण होकर इसी पार्लियामेंट श्री शिव कुमार उदासी जी ने बोला था कि वह पार्लियामेंट के अन्दर वापस नहीं आयेंग अगर उसमें सरकार की तरफ से नोटीफिकेशन रहते रहेंगे। मैं आपके माध्यम से यह बताना चाहता हूं कि नोटीफिकेशन के बावजूद भी सभी बजट के अन्दर या डिमांड ऑफ मूंद्स के माध्यम से जो भी बढ़ाया जायेगा तो इस सदन के अन्दर हर बार हम लोगों को सूचित किया जायेगा, हम लोगों को उसकी जानकारी मिलेगी। अगर यह पेड-अप इंक्विटी सौ करोड़ से ज्यादा भी नोटीफिकेशन के बावजूद आयेगी। लाइफ इंश्योरेंस कंपनी के अलावा बाकी जितनी भी इंश्योरेंस कंपनीज़ इस देश के अन्दर ऑपरेट हो रही हैं, उनकी भी पेड-अप कैपिटल सौ करोड़ रूपये ही है, इसलिए लाइफ इंश्योरेंस कंपनी को अस लेवल-प्ले के अंदर मौका दिया जाये, यही लॉ आफ दी लैंड के कारण जरटीफाइड किया जा सकता है। लाइफ इंश्योरेंस कंपनी का योगदान कंपनी के उस सुनहरे इतिहास के पीछे सबसे बड़ा अगर किसी का योगदान

है तो वह पॉतिसी होल्डर का हैं। जिनके विश्वास के कारण लाइफ इंश्योरेंस कंपनी का यह बहुत बड़ा इतिहास रहा हैं। आज लाइफ इंश्योरेंस कंपनी देश की सबसे बड़ी फाइनेंशियल इंस्टीटसूट हैं। लगभग 13 लाख 17 हजार 416 करोड़ रूपये के करीब इनकी आज की ऐसेट्स बेस हैं।

महोदय, इसके अन्दर उन एजेंट्स का भी बहुत बड़ा योगदान हैं, वे पूत्येक पॉलिसी होल्डर में एक विश्वास, एक कड़ी बनाते हैं, जिनके माध्यम से वे पॉलिसी होल्डर लाइफ इंश्योरेंस कंपनी की उन पॉलिसीज़ से जड़ते हैं। इसमें लाइफ इंश्योरेंस कापेरिशन के कर्मचारियों का भी बहुत बड़ा योगदान रहा है। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूं कि उन्हें एजेंट्स के बारे में, उनके भविष्य के बारे में भी सोचना चाहिए। जो उनका कमीशन हम पिछले सात सात से घटाते जा रहे हैं, आपसे निवेदन हैं कि उन एजेंट्स के कमीशन के बारे में भी आपको सोचना चाहिए। इस बिल के अन्दर एलआईसी के लाभ में से 95 परसेंट की जगह 90 प्रतिशत तक शेयर होल्डर को दिये जाने का प्राथान हैं। 5 प्रतिशत जो एडिशनल लाइफ इंश्योरेंस कापोरिशन को मिलेगा, वह उस संस्था के सभिक्तरण के लिए होगा और उससे बड़ा जो रिस्क कवरेज उस संस्था के लिए होगा। चूंकि आज के समय में हम लोगों ने देखा है, पहले यूरोपियन मंदी के कारण बड़े से बड़े इंश्योरेंस सेक्टर के अन्दर, आज पूरी दुनिया के अन्दर सबसे बड़ा एआईजी इंश्योरेंस के नाम से जाना जाता है, उसे भी आखिरकार यू.एस. गवर्नमेंट ने आर्थिक मदद की। वह 5 प्रतिशत जो बफर होगा, वह इंश्योरेंस कंपनी के लिए, एलआईसी के लिए, इंस्टीट्सूट के लिए भी अच्छा रहेगा और भविष्य के अन्दर रिस्क कवरेज के लिए भी बहुत अच्छा। इतिहास इस बात का गवाह है कि जो शत-प्रतिशत गारंटी भारत सरकार की तरफ से एलआईसी को दी हुई है, एलआईसी ने कभी भी उसका उपयोग नहीं किया।

बड़ी से बड़ी प्राकृतिक आपदा के समय में भी, भूकमप और सुनामी जैसी प्राकृतिक आपदा के समय में भी, जब बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में उन्हें पॉलिसी होल्डर को कम्पनसेंशन देना पड़ा। उसके लिए भी उसका उपयोग नहीं लिया। मैं मंत्री महोदय को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं कि उन्होंने वह प्रविधान जिसमें शत-प्रतिशत भारत सरकार की तरफ से पॉलिसी होल्डर को गांस्टी देने का था, उसको उन्होंने विड्रा किया है, उस विड्रा करने के पीछे जो मंशा रही हैं कि भारत सरकार के प्रति पॉलिसी होल्डर का विष्वास बरकरार रहेगा। इस बिल में एनआईसी की शाखा बढ़ाने का अधिकार इस्डा को दिया गया हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन को बताना चाहता हूं कि शायद विष्व में सबसे अच्छे रेगूलेटर्स कहीं हैं तो भारत के अंदर हैं। हमने आर्थिक मंदी के समय में भी देखा बैंकिंग सेवटर के अंदर भी हिन्दुस्तान के अच्छे रेगूलेटर्स के कारण ही हिन्दुस्तान के बैंकों की विष्वसनीयता को मंदी से उबारने में सबसे बड़ा योगदान रेगूलेटर्स का रहा हैं। मुझे विष्वास है कि इसी प्रकार इंश्योरेंस सेवटर में ईरडा के माध्यम से भारत के अंदर दूसरी सभी बीमा कम्पनियों के लिए हैं, वैसे के वैसे एलआईसी के लिए भी होंगे। आज बैंकों में हमारी शाखा खोलने का प्रविधान रेगूलेटर्स के पास हैं। हम लोग बहुत अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं कि बैंकों की पहुंच गूमीण क्षेत् तक हैं। यह जो सराहनीय काम भारत सरकार ने किया हैं, उसके लिए मैं भारत सरकार को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं। आज इंश्योरेंस सेवटर में लगभग 20 प्रतिशत जनसंख्या इंश्योरेंस से जुड़ी हैं। आज हिन्दुस्तान में इंश्योरेंस की गूथ की बहुत गुंजाइश हैं। हमें इस सेवटर के लिए आने वाले समय में मजबूती से काम करना चाहिए। एक अच्छे बिल के माध्यम से ज्यादा से ज्यादा हिन्दुस्तानी लाइफ इंश्योरेंस करवा सकें, इसके बारे में हमें सोवना चाहिए।

महोदय, मैं आज इस मौंके पर वित्त मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूं कि आज इस देश की रीढ़ की हड्डी किसान और मजदूर हैं। विशेषकर अन्नओंनाइज्ड सेक्टर के मजदूर की लाइफ इंश्योरेंस के लिए हम लोग क्या कर सकते हैं, इसके बारे में भी आपको सोचना चाहिए। आज किसी देश और समाज का विकास कहीं से होगा तो वह किसान और मजदूर के माध्यम से होगा। आज देश के विकास में सबसे बड़ी भूमिका किसान और मजदूर की हैं। अगर इस देश में 9 प्रतिशत तक की गूरेश हम लोग देख रहे हैं, देश को महाशिक बनाने की सोच रहे हैं, तो उसमें सबसे बड़ा योगदान किसान और मजदूर का होगा। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि किसान और मजदूर की लाइफ इंश्योरेंस के मिए किसी ने किसी प्रकार की प्रथमिकता होनी चाहिए। मैं लाइफ इंश्योरेंस के अलावा कृषि बीमा के संबंध में भी इस मौंके पर बोलना चाहता हूं कि कृषि बीमा के तहत कृषक को कुछ छूट देनी चाहिए कि यदि वह मौसम आधारित बीमा करवाना चाहे तो करवाए और क्रॉप किरींग के आधार पर कराना चाहे तो करवाए। आज किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड का किसानों को किस प्रकार से फायदा मिल रहा है, इस बारे में मैंने दो दफा सदन में मंत्री जी से आगृह किया था। आज मैं तीसरी दफा भी आगृह करता हूं कि केसीसी के तहत किसान को कैसे ज्यादा से ज्यादा फायदा पहुंचा सकते हैं, उसके लिए भी आप प्रथमिकता से सोचें। आने वाले समय में एलआईसी एक अच्छा इतिहास रचे। इंश्योरेंस सेक्टर में एलआईसी के एजेंट, पॉलिसी होल्डर और उसके कर्मचारियों के लिए ज्यादा से ज्यादा कैसे काम हो सकता है, उनकी मजबूती कैसे हो सकती है, वैसे ही फैसले भारत सरकार की तरफ से होंगे, इसकी आशा मैं भारत सरकार से करता हूं। धन्यवाद। जय हिन्द।

भी भैतेन्द्र कुमार (कौशाम्बी): माननीय सभापति महोदय, आपने मुझे जीवन बीमा निगम (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2009 पर बोलने का अवसर दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपका आभारी हूं। आज पूरे देश में अगर देखा जाए तो 21 प्राइवेट सेक्टर कंपनियों ने देश में जीवन बीमा कारोबार का संन्यवहार प्रारंभ किया है और इस बिल में यह भी प्रावधान है कि न्यूनतम पूंजी को पांच करोड़ रूपए से बढ़ाकर एक अरब रूपए करने का उपबंधन रखा गया है। अगर रकम बढ़ाई जाएगी तो केन्द्रीय सरकार की अधिसूचना द्वारा होगी।

सभापित महोदय, अगर देखा जाए तो बीमारी हो या पूसूति या नियोजन, क्षित की दशा में कर्मचारियों को सुविधाएं देने का पूबंधन इस बिल में किया गया है और राज्य सहकारी सोसायियों के संवर्द्धन का भी समावेश किया गया है। धारा 37 में पांच वर्ष के स्थान पर तीन वर्ष किया गया, निरीक्षक की जगह सामाजिक सुरक्षा अधिकारी, बीमाकृत व्यक्ति के स्थान पर कर्मचारी शब्द रखा गया है। दिनांक 15.06.2008 तक 1.25 ताख से अधिक स्मार्ट कार्ड जारी किए गए हैं जबिक इस वक्त 54 ताख के उपर जारी किए जा चुके हैं। आधितों को पूसुविधाएं देने के पूयोजन के लिए आयु सीमा विद्यमान अठारह वर्ष से बढ़ाकर इक्कीस वर्ष किया गया है। वर्ष 2010 के दौरान तेरह पूतिशत से बढ़ाकर 186285 करोड़ रूपया पहुंचा। पिछले वर्ष यह 164399 करोड़ रूपया था। कर्मचारियों की संख्या घटकर दो करोड़ 49 ताख 635 कर दिए गए हैं जबिक सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की बीमा कंपनी सिहत निजी क्षेत्रों की 22 कंपनियां जीवन बीमा पंलिसियां बेचती हैं। रिलायंस लाइफ और एचडीएफसी स्टैण्डर्ड लाइफ सिहत निजी क्षेत्र की कंपनियां भी पूंजी बाजार में उतरना चाहती हैं। इस और भी हमें ध्यान देना पड़ेगा कि बीमा एकाउंट ए और बीमा एकाउंट बी, दोनों योजनाओं को एत.आई.सी. निवेशकों को छ: प्रतिशत गारंटी रिटर्न देगी।

सभापित जी, मैं यह भी कहना चाहूंगा कि हमारे जो गरीब हैं, खासकर जो असंगठित क्षेत् के मजदूर हैं या बहुत गरीब हैं, जो बीमा पॉलिसी देने में असमर्थ हैं, उनके जीवन की गारंटी लेने वाली इस प्रकार की कोई योजना नहीं हैं। गरीबों के लिए एक योजना चलायी गयी थी। उसमें बहुत-सी सोसायटीज या बहुत-से एनजीओज हैं, जिसका परिणाम प्रत्यक्ष रूप से अभी सही मायने में नहीं आ पाया हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से चाहूंगा कि असंगठित क्षेत् के जो गरीब, खेतिहर मजदूर, श्र्मिक हैं, उनके लिए कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था हो कि सूक्ष्म धनराशि लेने के बाद उनकी जीवन पॉलिसी या कार्यकाल के दौरान यदि कोई दुर्घटना होती है तो उस पर उनको धनराशि मिल जाए। यदि उनकी मृत्यु होती है तो पर्याप्त धनराशि न मिलने के कारण असंगठित क्षेत्र के तमाम ऐसे मजदूर और श्रमिक हैं जिनका

परिवार भुखमरी के कग़ार पर आ जाता हैं, भीख मांगने लगता हैं। यही नहीं, उनके परिवार में तमाम इस पूकार के अनैतिक कार्यों के कारण उनका परिवार पूरी तरह से नष्ट हो जाता हैं। जिस पूकार से संगठित क्षेत्रों के लिए जीवन बीमा की धनराशि और पॉलिसी फिक्स की गयी हैं, उसी पूकार से असंगठित क्षेत्र, जिनका कोई पुरसाहाल नहीं, ऐसे लोग जो गरीब हैं, उनके लिए कोई कार्य योजना बने ताकि उनको पूरी तरह से लाभ मिलें। मैं ज्यादा कुछ न कहकर इस विधेयक का पूरज़ोर समर्थन करते हुए अपनी बात को समाप्त करता हुं। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

भूरी रमाशंकर राजभर (सलेमपुर): सभापित महोदय, आपने मुझे जीवन से जुड़े बिल पर बोलने का अवसर दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं। यह विधेयक 14वीं लोक सभा में भी पास होने के लिए आया था, लेकिन लोक सभा के स्थगित हो जाने के कारण यह विधेयक पास नहीं हो सका। आज सवा सौ करोड़ के भारत में भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम की न्यूनतम पूंजी पांच करोड़ से बढ़ा कर एक अरब रुपए करना आवश्यक हैं। जब से जीवन बीमा कम्पनियों का राष्ट्रीयकरण हुआ, देश में 21 पूड़वेट सैवटर की कम्पनियां भी कार्यरत हैं।

सभापित महोदय, राष्ट्रीयकरण के बाद जीवन बीमा कम्पनियों के साथ-साथ बहुत सी ऐसी कम्पनियों की बाढ़ आ गई, जिसमें देश के बहुत से गरीबों ने अपना पैसा तगाया। वे कम्पनियां किस आधार पर बनाई गई थीं, कैसी बनाई गई थीं। देश के कई कोनों से आज भी अखबारों में निकलता हैं, यह देखने को मिलता हैं कि बहुत सी जीवन बीमा कम्पनियां आई, उन्होंने लोगों से पैसा जमा करवाया, उनकी तीन-चार किशत जमा करने के बाद वे भाग गई। वे अपना ऑफिस तक भी उठा कर भाग गई। मैं विधेयक पर बत देते इतना जरूर कहूंगा कि ऐसी फर्जी कम्पनियां देश में कैसे आई, उन्होंने गरीबों का पैसा जमा करवाया और उसके बाद यहां से वे भाग गई। उन्होंने कैसे नौजवानों का पैसा जमा करवाया और उसके बाद वे भाग गई। इस पर माननीय मंतूी जी जरूर ध्यान देंगे।

सभापित महोदय, जीवन बीमा उद्योग कुल प्रीमियर संगूह सन् 2010 के दौरान 13 प्रतिशत बढ़ कर 1,86,285 करोड़ रुपए हुआ, यह स्वागत योग्य कदम है। तेकिन वहीं यह जानकर आश्चर्य होता है कि बीमा कम्पनियों में 18184 कर्मचारियों को घटा दिया गया। हम एक तरफ पांच करोड़ से अपनी न्यूनतम पूंजी बढ़ा करके एक करोड़ कर रहे हैं, लेकिन वहीं पर आबादी बढ़ने में हमने कर्मचारियों को घटाया और केवल कर्मचारियों को ही नहीं घटाया। आखिर कौन से ऐसे कारण हैं, माननीय मंत्री जी इसे देखें कि केवल कर्मचारियों को ही नहीं घटाया, बिल्क 2,73,984 एजेंटों को भी घटा दिया। हम एक तरफ जीवन बीमा को आगे बढ़ाना चाहते हैं और दूसरी तरफ कर्मचारी और एजेंटों को निकालते जा रहे हैं, यह बहुत ही दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण बात है। प्राइवेट सैक्टर की जो जीवन बीमा कम्पनियां थीं, उन्होंने भी 62956 कर्मचारियों की कटौती कर दी। हमारे देश में आरक्षण की व्यवस्था है कि इस देश में जो विचत एवं पिछड़े लोग हैं, उन्हें अवसर दिया जाए, जिनको एससी, एसटी और ओबीसी का आरक्षण प्रप्त हो। इन कर्मचारियों में जो जीवन बीमा निगम की प्राइवेट सैक्टर की और जीवन बीमा निगम के जो कर्मचारी हैं, इसमें एससी, एसटी और ओबीसी का कोटा पूरा होता है या नहीं, यह भी एक विचारणीय विषय हैं, इसे जरूर करना चाहिए।

सभापित महोदय, जैसा कि अपने नाम से स्पष्ट हो जाता है कि जीवन बीमा कम्पनी, यानी हम केवल जीवन बीमा करेंगे, फसलों का बीमा नहीं करेंगे। जानवरों का हमारा देश, हमारे देश का काफी किसान फसलों पर आधारित हैं और उस किसान के फसलों की बीमा के बारे में सरकार और कम्पनियों की तरफ से जो उदासीनता दिखाई जाती हैं, वह बिलकुन ही निन्दनीय हैं। निश्चित तौर पर यह किसानों का देश हैं और किसानों के देश में किसानों की फसलों का बीमा भी रुचि लेकर इन कम्पनियों को करना चाहिए। कभी-कभी पूड़वेट शैक्टर की कम्पनियां बड़ी-बड़ी चीजों में अपनी रुचि दिखाती हैं। वे दूसरे पूड़वेट शैक्टर में काफी रुचि दिखाती हैं, यह देखना चाहिए कि जिनका आपने राष्ट्रीयकरण किया है, ये सारी कम्पनियां, जो किसान के हित के लिए बीमा है, उस पर रुचि दिखा रही हैं या नहीं। केवल किसान ही नहीं, हमारे देश का काफी आदमी पशुओं पर आधारित हैं। गांव में जो व्यक्ति रहता है, वह पशुओं पर भी कर्जा लेकर 25-30 हजार की एक भैंस खरीदता है और वह भैंस विभिन्न बीमारियों से मर जाती हैं। वह आशा लगाए हुए होता है कि अमुक भैंस से पैसा मिलेगा तो मैं दूध बेचूंगा और उससे मेरी बेटी की शादी होगी। उससे मैं बीमार की दवा कराऊंगा और अपने बच्चे को पढ़ा लूंगा।

14.00 hrs.

लेकिन वह भैंस जब मर जाती है तो फिर उसके पास कोई सहारा नहीं रहता।

अन्त में मैं केवल एक बात कहना चाहता हूं कि उसी तरह से देश के मजदूर, जो आज मनरेगा के तहत काम कर रहे हैं, उन मजदूरों की भी अकाल मौत हो जाती हैं, उधर ये जीवन बीमा कम्पनियां कोई रुचि नहीं दिखातीं। मैं चाहता हूं कि उधर भी ये जीवन बीमा कम्पनियां उन मजदूरों पर, जो 40 परसेंट गरीब भारत हैं, जो इस इंश्योरेंस की बात को नहीं जानता, वहां जाकर उनका भी बीमा करने का काम करें।

आपने मुझे बोलने का समय दिया, इसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

भी अर्जुन राय (सीतामढ़ी): सभापति जी, लाइफ इंश्योरेंस कारपोरेशन एमेंडमेंट बिल, 1956 में संशोधन के लिए जो बिल पेश किया गया है, मैं उस पर बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं_।

माननीय मंत्री जी के वक्तव्य में जो इन्होंने आरम्भ में कहा, उस पर मैं एक मिनट में अपनी बात कहना चाहता हूं। माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया कि 2009 में इस बिल को स्टेंडिंग कमेटी में भेजा गया। फिर 2010 में स्टेंडिंग कमेटी ने अपनी रिपोर्ट के साथ इसे जमा किया और माननीय मंत्री जी स्टेंडिंग कमेटी की मैविसमम रिकमेण्डेशंस के साथ 2011 में सदन के सामने आये।

माननीय मंत्री जी ने यह भी कहा कि इस बिल के पास हो जाने से जो कानून बनेगा, उससे कारपोरेट हाउसेज़ की भी जिम्मेदारी सामाजिक क्षेत्र में बढ़ेगी और इस संशोधन को करने से लचीलापन आयेगा। ये बातें माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने उद्घोधन में कहीं हैं। हम इस पर आगे चलेंगे।

मुझे 2-4 बातें कहनी हैं कि लाइफ इंश्योरेंस कारपोरेशन बिल, जो आप लाये हैं, देखने में बहुत सहज और साधारण दिखाई देता है, लेकिन इसके संशोधन के बाद जो रूप-रेखा इस देश में बननी हैं, उससे पता चलता है कि आपकी निगाहें कहीं पर हैं और निशाना कहीं पर हैं_। पूरे बिल को देखने से लगता

14.03 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

हैं कि कारपोरेट हाउसेज़ की तरफ आपका झुकाव 90 परसेंट हो गया हैं और इस देश के आम अवाम, जिनको इससे लाभ लेना हैं, उनके पूर्ति, उन कर्मचारियों और उन एजेण्टों के पूर्ति आप अपनी जिम्मेदारी से मुकरने की तैयारी कर रहे हैं, जो आप अपने संशोधन में लाये हैं। माननीय मंत्री जी, इसमें हमारा लोजिक भी हैं।

1999 में आपने इसमें एक संशोधन कर दिया और निजी क्षेत्र की कम्पनियों को आपने इसमें पूरेश दिलाया। जहां तक मेरी जानकारी है, 21 निजी कम्पनियां इस क्षेत्र में आज काम कर रही हैं और पूरी आवादी के पांच से 6 पूरिशत लोगों को ही आप लाम पहुंचा पाये हैं। नेशनल सैम्पल सर्वे आर्गेनाइजेशन का हाल का जा अध्ययन आया है, इस अध्ययन के आधार पर 89.36 मिलियन कृषक परिवारों में से 43.42 मिलियन कृषक परिवार आज भी कर्जे में दने हैं, कारण कि उनकी फसल अतिवृद्धि, अनावृद्धि, बाद आदि से या अन्य कारणों से बर्बाद होती हैं, लेकिन आपने इतनी प्राइवेट एजेंसियों को इस क्षेत्र में पूरेश दिलाने के बावजूद इन किसानों को, गूमीण इलाके में रहने वाले लोगों को इस लाम से महरूम करने का काम किया हैं। आज देश में स्थित भयावह हैं। किसान कर्ज में जन्म लेता हैं और कर्ज में रहकर कर्ज में ही मर जाता हैं। इस दुर्दिन का आपकी जो यह इंश्योरेंस की पॉलिसी हैं, जो आपने इस देश में व्यवस्था कर रखी हैं, माननीय मंत्री जी, यह सबसे बड़ा कारण हैं। बीमे का कारोबार बंछनीय ढंग से विस्तारित इस देश में नहीं हैं। इसका जो लामांश हैं, इसकी जो आमदनी हैं, वह किसी संपन्न कारोबार से कम नहीं हैं। कहां तक जानकारी हैं, इसका लामांश 28 पूरिशत हैं। देश के सामान्य वर्ग के लोगों को इसका क्या लाम मिला, जब माननीय मंत्री जी जवाब देंगे, तो उस समय इसका उत्तर देना चाहेंगे। आप इसमें एक और संशोधन लाए, इसके कैपिटल को पांच करोड़ से रूपए बढ़ाकर एक अरब रूपए तक ले जाने की बात कही। आप कहां से पूंजी जाएंगे? आप अनुबंध के आधार पर पूंजी की मात्रा बढ़ाएंगे। यह पूंजी कहां से आएगी? यह रपटर है कि बड़े उद्योगपितयों को आप इसमें पूरेश दिलान चाहते हैं और कारपोरेश में उनका एकाधिकार हो जाए, ऐसी व्यवस्था आपने इस संशोधन के माध्यम से की हैं।

इसमें एक और संशोधन आपने किया कि जो इसके एजेंट हैं, उनके लिए जो नियम और उपनियम बनेंगे, वह यह कारपोरेशन बनाएगा। यह कारपोरेशन इन एजेंटों के लिए नियम और उपनियम बनायेंगे, ऐसी रिथित में कारपोरेशन अपने लाभ का ख्याल करेगा या इसमें काम करने वाले लाखों मजदूर, लाखों एजेंटों के हित की बात करेगा। इस डेमोक्ट्रैटिक रिस्ट्रम में इस तरह की व्यवस्था संशोधन के माध्यम से लाकर आप देश को क्या बताना चाहते हैं? हम आपकी जानकारी में लाना चाहते हैं कि बीमा कंपनियों में आप एजेंट और कर्मचारियों की छटनी कर रहे हैं और दूसरी तरह लाभ की बात कर रहे हैं। किसान, मजदूर को इसका लाभ नहीं मिल रहा है और वर्ष 2010 में इस सेवटर के जो कर्मचारी हैं, आपने 18184 कर्मचारी इस क्षेत्र में कम कर दिए। वर्ष 2010 में इन कर्मचारियों की संख्या घटकर 2 लाख 49 हजार 635 रह गयी, जबकि वर्ष 2009 में उनकी संख्या 2 लाख 67 हजार 819 थी। दूसरी तरफ जो इसके एजेंट हैं, जो इस व्यवसाय को चलाने के लिए सबसे मजबूत हथियार है, सबसे ताकत्वर अस्तू है, माननीय मंत्री जी जो इसके एजेंट हैं, वर्ष 2010 में इनकी संख्या को घटाकर आपने 27 लाख 10 हजार 301 कर दिया, जबिक वर्ष 2009 में उनकी संख्या 29 लाख 84 हजार 285 थी। एक साल में आप पौने तीन लाख एजेंटों की संख्या घटाते हैं। आप क्या बताना चाहते हैं? आप कर्मचारी घटा रहे हैं, आप इसके एजेंटों की संख्या घटा रहे हैं, इसमें कारपोरेट हाउसेज को घुसा रहे हैं, किसान मजदूर को कोई लाभ नहीं मिले, ऐसी व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं। कहने का मतलब यह है कि कंपतीट रूप से जो आपका यह बिल आया है, कारपोरेट हाउसेज को इस कारपोरेशन में, इस कारोबार में आय कमाने के लिए आपने अच्छा पूर्वधन करके इस देश के साथ बड़ा भारी धोखा करने का आप पूरास कर रहे हैं।

जो आप संशोधन ताए, इसके पीछे आपका मकसद यह है कि आने वाले समय में जो बवाल मचेगा, कर्मचारियों और एजेंटों की घटती संख्या से जो बवाल मचने वाला है, इसको नियंत्रित करने के लिए आपने पूर्व-पूबंधन का काम किया हैं। एक बात मैं और जानना चाहता हूं कि इस देश में शूमिकों के लिए जो कानून हैं, इस संशोधन के माध्यम से, जो आप संशोधन कर रहे हैं, इसमें जुड़े हुए जो एजेंट और मजदूर हैं, देश में शूमिकों के लिए जो कानून आपने बनाया है, क्या वह कानून इनके साथ भी काम करेगा या इनके लिए आप अलग से नियम, उपनियम बनाकर इनके सारे हक को मारकर कारपोरेट हाउसेज के घर को भरना चाहते हैं? यह हम आपसे जानना चाहते हैं।

हमारे मित्र हरीश जी, जो कांग्रेस के साथी हैं, इन्होंने कहा कि 13 तास्व करोड़ से ज्यादा के एतआईसी के एसेट्स हैं। अच्छी बात है, आपने सही बात कही, लेकिन इसके जो एजेंट हैं, उनकी कमीशन घट रही हैं। एजेंट का कमीशन ही नहीं, एजेंट की संख्या भी घटा रहे हैं। कुछ दिन बाद इनकी जो मंशा है, क्योंकि एक सात में इन्होंने ढाई तास्व से ज्यादा एजेंटों को कम कर दिया, 18 हजार से ज्यादा कर्मचारियों को इन्होंने कम कर दिया। माननीय मंत्री जी अपने स्टेटमेंट में बोतते हैं कि कारपोरेट हाउसेज की सामाजिक जिम्मेदारी बढ़नी है, उसका एक ही मकसद होता है कि अधिक से अधिक ताभांश कमाया जाए और अधिक से अधिक धन उपार्जित किया जाए। न कि इस देश के तोगों की भताई के तिए और किसान मजदूरों के पूर्त उनकी कोई जिम्मेवारी बनती हैं। कुत मिता कर इस कारपोरेशन को पूड़वेट पूंजिपति के हाथ में डातने का छदम प्रयास है, आगे जो बवात आए उससे बचने के तिए माननीय मंत्री जी इस बिल को ताये हैं।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : कृपया समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री अर्जुन राय: हम इस बिल का समर्थन नहीं करते हैं। इसके समर्थन करने का सवात नहीं हैं। यह जनविरोधी हैं। इस देश के करोड़ो किसानों और मजदूरों के अहित का भी बिल हैं। इसके एजेन्ट्स के अहित का बिल हैं। सर्वहारा वर्ग के खिलाफ का बिल हैं। इसलिए हम इस बिल का समर्थन नहीं करते हैं। इन्हीं बातों के साथ हम चाहते हैं कि जो जनपक्षीय बिल हो जिसमें देश के 43.42 मिलियन किसान जो कर्ज में दबे हैं उनके कर्ज के निवारण से संबंधित कानून और बिल इस सदन में लाइए तािक देश की आत्मा जो गांवों में बसती हैं उनका भला हो। इन्हीं बातों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं। जयिहंद।

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR): Mr. Deputy-Chairman, Sir, the Life Insurance Corporation is a national financial institution of our country. People of this country are having large confidence on this institution. I can remember, when I was

a boy of five or six years of age, my father used to pay LIC premium through a cheque to his agent. When I started earning money, I followed the same footpath. When my son has come, who has started earning money very recently, he has also started following that footpath. Generation after generation, the people of this country are having large confidence on this institution.

Sir, LIC continues to be the dominant life insurer even in the liberalized scenario of Indian insurance and is moving fast on a new growth path surpassing its own past records. LIC has crossed many milestones and has set unprecedented performance records in various aspects of life insurance business. The same motives which inspired our forefathers to bring insurance into existence in this country, inspire us at LIC to take this message of protection to light the lamps of security in as many homes as possible and to help the people in providing security to their families.

In this background, it is a question to be decided whether Clause 2, which seeks to amend the original Section 5, is warranted or not. There is no difficulty to this extent when it says: "The paid-up equity capital of the Corporation shall be one hundred crore of rupees provided by the Central Government after due appropriation made by Parliament by law for the purpose". There is no difficulty up to this point. But the difficulty is thereafter when it further says: "...which may be enhanced to such an amount as the Central Government may, by notification, determine." What is the meaning of this sentence? What does the Government want to do? Why it is to be determined by notification? If you want to enhance to such an amount as the Central Government may decide, you come up again with an amending legislation. Let there be debate once again in this House, why it is warranted for this enhancement, whether any other enhancement is necessary.

We are making our points very clear that we are against any sort of disinvestment whether you bring it by notification or whether you bring it by legislation. If the legislation comes, we will get a chance to discuss. But, if by a notification, you want to disinvest any amount of the LIC's capital, we are against it. Do not endeavour to make disinvestment by a backdoor process. That would be a request to the hon. Minister. We are opposing such a move. If the additional fund is necessary in future and the Government wants to provide it, let it be provided by way of necessary appropriation in Parliament.

I would like to be very brief. My point is that we are against any type of disinvestment, privatisation of LIC – either by notification or by any other way.

Sir, one of my friends has said that the Government is again going to amend Section 28 of the principal Act by Clause 5. The hon. Minister has given in his Statement that only the prospective effect would be taking place. I join issue with him there. If it compares with the private insurance company then the confidence which the people are having on LIC or rather I say a great respect that the people are having for LIC would be lost. I would like to request the hon. Minister to reconsider this amendment in Section 28 (1) (a) and also restore the previous position. Do not bring it in the same pedestal of a private insurance company.

So far as Clause 9 is concerned, you want to amend the original Section 49. Here, I would like to request that if any rule is brought that should not hamper any of the terms and conditions of the existing employees. New mode of recruitment and new terms and conditions may be applied but the existing terms and conditions should not be altered. But 'b' part is laying another stringent condition.

Another thing is that directions may be given, as per rule, through LIC agent. There are many old age persons who are illiterate and in their need LIC is an only encashment for them. It must be the duty of the agent that the ultimate benefit of an insurance policy should be given to the person concerned. The LIC should supervise that the benefit should reach to the beneficiary. It should be made a part of the conditions. With this I am concluding.

SHRI R. THAMARAISELVAN (DHARMAPURI): Sir, I thank you for allowing me to take part in the debate concerning the LIC of India.

I really appreciate the Government that it has come up with this Bill to enhance the paid-up capital of the Corporation from Rs. 5 crores to Rs. 100 crores by substituting a new Section for Section 5 of the principal Act, 1956. At that time the LIC intends to go in for expansion of its insurance business activities to contain the stiff competition from the insurance companies in private sector.

Sir, I must say here that when the Government allowed the private companies to enter into the insurance business, everyone thought that the LIC will be in trouble. But the reality today is that the more customers are now switching over to

LIC because of the difficulties that the customers are facing with insurance companies in private sector, because of misselling of products by these private insurance companies. The problem of misselling has become acute with the entry of new players because of increased competition among agents to get business.

A common practice is seen that the Life Insurance agents approach the customers and sell them policies telling them to pay for a just limited period, say five years, and assuring them a return of 20 times after 20 years with additional insurance benefits, whereas the actual premium payment term is of 20 years and it is a regular premium policy. Thus, the customer faces the risk of police lapse.

Sir, I have some information that several thousands of cases have been filed with the Ombudsman of Insurance Companies in connection with mis-selling of products. These private companies offer huge commission to their agents and these agents in turn allure the customers with wrong and misguiding informations. But these Ombudsmen do not enjoy any jurisdiction or power to entertain the cases of such mis-selling of insurance policies. Therefore, these Ombudsmen should be conferred with more powers to decide such cases for providing justice to these disgruntled customers of private insurance companies.

Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to urge upon the Government to fill up the large number of vacancies in the Life Insurance Corporation of India without any delay so that we can strengthen the effective functioning of LIC.

Sir, I would also like to bring to the kind attention of the Government certain problems which are being faced by the LIC agents. The LIC agents have been opposing the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority's move to raise the annual minimum business limit, privatization of insurance companies, and not to deprive the agents their basic rights like provident fund and pension. They also demanded that all the vacancies in the Life Insurance Company should be filled up without any delay. They also opposed the appointment of the Direct Selling Agents, who took much of the earnings of the agents by way of collecting premium from the policyholders, deducting the commission.

Sir, a Pension Welfare Fund set up from forfeited commissions of terminated life insurance agents is what some ten lakh agents of the Life Insurance Corporation of India are trying to secure by way of post-retirement benefits.

In its 50 years of existence, LIC has terminated 30 lakh agents and their forfeited commissions may be running into hundreds of crores of rupees. This commission, as of now, goes to the LIC fund, though it is the hard-earned money of the agents. The agents are also demanding that their gratuity benefits be brought on par with those of the LIC staff. Currently, an agent can avail himself a maximum amount of Rs.1,00,000 as gratuity benefit as against Rs.3,50,000 in respect of the LIC employees. They are also seeking a revision of the IRDA training norms for agents. Currently, it is mandatory for insurance agents to put in 100 hours of training. There is no effective control to ensure the quality in the stipulated 100-hour training programme. Obviously, the stress is on building up a large quantity of agents with no eye on quality.

Sir, I, once again, urge upon the Government to create a mechanism to prevent mis-selling of insurance policies by the insurance companies in the private sector and redress the grievances of the LIC agents such as to stop the move of IRDA to raise the annual minimum business limit, privatization of insurance companies, not to deprive the agents their basic rights like provident fund and pension, to immediately fill up the vacancies in LIC, and not to appoint the Direct Selling Agents.

With these words, I conclude and support the Bill.

श्री बंस गोपाल चौधरी (आसनसोल): आदरणीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद देना चाहूंगा, क्योंकि उन्होंने सबसे पहले अपना वक्तव्य पेश किया। उन्होंने स्टैंडिंग कमेटी की कुछ रिकमेंडेशन्स को मानने के बारे में भी सदन में सूचना दी।

But what is the real cause behind bringing this Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Bill before this House? If we go through the performance of the Life Insurance Corporation and to the spirit of nationalisation, we will find that for the community as a whole and for the country, the contribution by the Life

Insurance Corporation is of a great extent. What are the investments by the LIC? I am giving you the figures of investment in Government and social sectors by the Life Insurance Corporation. It is for the Central Government securities. As on 31st March, 2011, it is Rs. 4,07, 934 crore. Similarly, we can find that for the State Governments and other Government guaranteed marketable securities, housing and infrastructure investment, housing, power, irrigation, water supply and

sewerage, road, port and bridges, railways, others including telecom, the Life Insurance Corporation has contributed a large amount of money. Up to the 31st March, 2011, it is Rs. 7,49,150 crore. This is the total amount which the Life Insurance Corporation has contributed.

I am not going into the details about the Five Year Plans. But since the 2nd Five Year Plan of our country up to the 11th Five Year Plan, the contribution made by the Life Insurance Corporation is also there. It is with the Ministry of Finance; and the Government is totally aware of it. What dividend the Government is getting is also important. Total dividend being five per cent share of the Government paid to the Government till 31st March, is more than Rs. 10,000 crore as an equity of Rs. 5 crore.

Sir, what I am going to tell is about the real background to bring this Amendment Bill. The erstwhile Government appointed the Malhotra Committee, which recommended disinvestments in the LIC. For what reason did it recommend so? When the LIC is already contributing so much to the Indian economy, what is the need for such type of a recommendation by the Malhotra Committee? Similarly, another Committee had been appointed by the Government, sometime back, to go into the financial strength of the LIC. This is the financial strength which I have just now mentioned. It is the Government paper from which I quoted all these figures. But the Government is running behind the private sector! It is moving ahead for the so-called economic reforms in the country everywhere in the public sector. The Government is running behind even the Life Insurance Corporation also.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): Are you opposing it?

SHRI BANSA GOPAL CHOWDHURY: I am coming to that.

The pertinent question is this. There is also a recommendation from the Standing Committee, which is the main point, which says: "allocate 90 per cent or more of surplus as the Central Government may approve for the Life Insurance Policy holders of the LIC and to credit such percentage of remaining surplus as the Central Government may approve."

Why are they giving such types of recommendations and why such types of things are coming in the Bill, though they have been turned down by the Standing Committee unanimously? The savings through the LIC are long-term investments. The people are depending on LIC for investment and they are going to the LIC to invest for 20 years and 25 years. Now, it is stretching up to 30-40 years also. What is the rate of payment of the LIC? Settlement of death claim in the LIC has come to 98.5 per cent. It is a world record. The performance of the Life Insurance Corporation is a world record.

Sir, it will affect the ability of the LIC; and it will affect the main purpose of the Life Insurance Corporation, if the policy-holders, who have purchased policies from the LIC as per the present Act, have been assured 95 per cent of the surplus to them. Now, the Government by altering this surplus pattern is trying to take away very unjustly what really belongs to the policy-holders.

Sir, 26 crore policy-holders are going to be affected. In the near future, within 5-10 years, the number of policy-holders will go up to 50 crores. My question is: why should the Life Insurance Corporation go into competition with the private sector? Why is the Government trying to bring foreign investors into the insurance sector? Why will the LIC go in for competition with the private sector and foreign competitors? There is no question about this.

The youths, those LIC agents, are losing their jobs. The Government should feel ashamed that lakhs of people, lakhs of youths are losing their jobs. Why should they lose their jobs in such a big country when there is dearth of jobs, when our economy is slowing down and when there is a serious problem in the manufacturing sector? The Government is not creating any jobs in the banking sector and in the insurance sector but lakhs of youths have lost their jobs. Therefore, my point is that it is very clear that the Government has brought this Bill to encourage the private sector in the insurance area. That is why, the entire Standing Committee unanimously rejected all the recommendations.

Therefore, I humbly request that the Government should accept the amendment which we have moved and the Government should henceforth re-think about participation of foreign players in the insurance sector; and it should be scrapped.

With these words, I oppose this Bill.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): Thank you, Sir for giving me this opportunity.

It is now an established fact that this amendment being a knee-jerk action is one more step, not towards globalization or

free market but towards a complete sell-out. We have been consistently viewing as to how this Government has been diluting the position of LIC from a premium institution in the field of insurance and in the process instead of making a level playing field for private players, it is preparing the filed so that private players will thrive and succeed. The pity is that most of these private players, I would not like to name particular companies, but those private players who are entering the Indian market in the garb of joint ventures with Indian companies, have gained huge discredit and bad name in their own original countries. Most of them or a lot of them have even gone bankrupt and have lost the confidence of the people of their own countries. But, India seems to be a country where they can come and we swallow hook, line, and sinker whatever they throw at us. The Government should first clarify about the present 37 per cent status as to whether it will be maintained or not. As of now, we find that in spite of this long period of time, insurance and even LIC has not been able to reach down to the common poor people as much as we would like it to do. Insurance has remained more or less for the rich or at best for the upper middle class. The benefits of the huge reserves of LIC over the years have come to the Government. This is probably, as far as I know, one of the few corporations or probably the only corporation which since its inception has not borrowed money from the Government but has consistently been paying the Government for its development activities.

I am also aware that LIC has been funding part of the Five Year Plans. Earlier hon. Members have also mentioned about this. So, we cannot neglect the contribution that LIC has made. In the same breath when we see today the way the workforce is being downgraded, the way agents are being thrown out of the job, it definitely saddens everybody in this House that at this critical economic juncture which this country is being forced to go through by this anti-people Government, it is indeed sad that we throw people out on the streets and do not bother to bring about a participative style of management where employees, agents and management of LIC could collaborate together to make it a vibrant and strong corporation once again that can contribute in the development of the nation.

As we have noticed, whenever in the past the LIC has ventured out of its core business, it has incurred losses. This point has been highlighted over and over again primarily because there is a deep seeded interest in the Government that private players should occupy the space that will be deserted by LIC. The faith, the belief in the LIC held by every Indian in every economic stratum is amazing. But, by these amendments we are trying to break that very faith and we are trying to create the situation where there will be disbelief in the minds of the people as to what changes this Government wants to bring in.

If we see the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Finance in 2009-10, the Committee has used very stern language and has criticized the move of the Government. One little quote would be enough to understand:

"We also find that there is a move to reduce the bonus to the policy holders by altering the distribution pattern of the surplus of the Life Insurance Corporation. This, we feel, is very unfair to the policy holders."

In a very soft manner this is a solid slap to the Government, which I think they should not ignore or put aside as being something of no consequence.

This whole recommendation given during the Fifteenth, this present Lok Sabha, is an eye-opener about the concerns of the Standing Committee on Finance about these amendments. Like many speakers have mentioned earlier, I would not be suggesting any amendments because I firmly believe that we oppose this amendment and we cannot support this amendment. In the process, I would like to suggest a few things. As recommended by the IRDA for tests concerning agents, these are being held in English. I would suggest that the hon. Minister should consider – I am not suggesting an alternative in the form of Hindi – regional languages – even Rajasthani – should be utilized for testing agents.....(Interruptions) And Odiya, of course.....(Interruptions)

We would suggest that regional language be considered. It is a pity that across the House from the ruling coalition to the other coalition everybody joins hands so surreptitiously and moves in unison when it is an anti-people policy or anti-people amendment. We must give kudos to all of you for doing it so smoothly in front of the whole nation and none of us are capable of understanding the smartness and intelligence! I must congratulate the hon. Minister. I would like that this should be done in the regional language.

I would also like that rogue companies who are coming in with private players who have gained bad-will in their own countries should be averted, IRDA should be alerted to guard against such people functioning within India.

The last point I would like the hon. Minister to ensure is that farm insurance and, along with farm insurance, small and

medium enterprises where Indians are trying to stand up on their own feet and work on their own instead of looking for jobs should also come under an ambit of insurance, so that there is a safety net in case they fail in their enterprises. Just as private players are getting into farming insurance, we should have a set-up whereby the Government can also give a sovereign guarantee for farm losses and to the farmer. Thank you.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: I would like to clarify one point. I have already said in my opening remarks about the guarantee. I again wish to reiterate in response to the amendment proposed by Gurudas Dasguptaji – several Members have also spoken about the guarantee, there should be no confusion about it – that Government guarantee under clause 6 has already been clarified by me in my opening remarks. The provisions of section 37 of the LIC Act, 1956 remains unchanged and a proviso has been added advising LIC to make efforts to maximize returns on the funds so as to maximize bonuses to the policy holders.

The Central Government's guarantee to LIC policies will continue to be as it is as per Section 37. I have already clarified this point....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (GHATAL): The official amendment has to be brought for that purpose.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Where is your amendment? Your statement is not sufficient. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: In the Act itself, the guarantee that is already there will continue.

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (SALEM): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to take part in the discussion.

Over the years, LIC has grown by leaps and bounds with subscriptions touching 25 crores. Ever since the insurance sector has been opened to the private sector, LIC has lost 35 per cent of the market share in terms of premium collected, and there was a decline of 29 per cent in terms of number of policies sold. It is high time that the LIC makes serious attempts to enter new areas and strengthen its position. Then only the LIC can emerge as a front leader.

Let me come to the issues. Through this Bill, a provision has been substituted under Section 5 for the enhancement of paid-up equity capital from Rs. 5 crore to Rs. 100 crore. I do not understand why the Centre intends to raise the paid-up capital to Rs. 100 crore at one stroke. Suppose the Government wishes to increase the amount, then the equity capital could have been raised marginally so as to protect it from any market fluctuations. LIC capital with solvency margin has exceeded Rs. 30,000 crore. Let us remember that 95 per cent of the capital belongs to policy-holders. Moreover, in the said provision, the option to further increase the capital by the Government without seeking the approval of the Parliament amounts to undermining the supremacy of the Parliament. What prevents the Centre from seeking the approval of the Parliament to increase the equity capital as and when needed? I think this section may have to be suitably amended to enable the Centre to seek Parliament's approval for further increase in the paid-up capital. The reason why I am saying this is that this type of move should not pave way for disinvestment process. So, I request the hon. Minister to make a firm commitment in this House to the effect that the Government has no such intention of making any disinvestment of LIC shares at any point of time.

Yet another disturbing aspect is to reduce the surplus fund from the existing 95 per cent to 90 per cent as found in clause 5 of the Bill, that is, substitution of new Section 28 (1) (a). This would result in lesser returns to the policy-holders of LIC. I think this move will also wean away prospective subscribers from LIC to private insurance companies. I think it is better to retain the existing Section which provides for 95 per cent distributable surplus to policy-holders.

Now, I come to the LIC agents. LIC agents play a vital role in popularizing LIC products. But for their dedicated service, LIC might not have grown to this extent as it stands today. Hence I feel that the proposed amendment to Section 49 of the Principal Act as continued in this Bill be so carefully worded to the effect that it is not detrimental to the interests of the LIC agents. It is essential that the LIC agents who are all the backbone of the organization are suitably rewarded with upward revision of commission fee and better facilities also, including social security scheme.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Thank you Deputy Chairman Sir.

LIC Amendments Bill, 2009 was introduced in this House despite popular oppositions. So, at that time, the Government can understand the feelings of the House. And the Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee scrutinized the proposals and accordingly made some recommendations. We have some objections on some basic points and ultimately, the Government has come to sense that some objections should be recognized and the amendments with regard to the sovereignty have already been accepted.

In the initial remarks, the Minister himself stated that the Central Government's guarantee to LIC policies will continue to be as it is, as per section 37. But why has this attempt been made? It was an intention to pave the way for privatization at large. Sir, as sovereign guarantee is key to the LIC's pre-eminent position of Life Insurance Business, that cannot be diluted.

Another point of our objection is about dilution of 95 per cent to 90 per cent. The present pattern of distribution of surplus is 95 per cent for the policy holders and five per cent to the Government. Why this proposal is being diluted? Why is it 90 per cent for the policyholders and 10 per cent for the Government? In every case, the Government used to say that it is 'aam aadmi yojana'. Why are you giving the blow to the 'aam aadmi' by reducing the five per cent? So, this is the point of serious objection. And I think the Government should come to the sense so that it should be as it is, that is 95 per cent and five per cent.

My third point is that the proposal in the amendment might have the negative effect of limiting the future branch network expansion of LIC and thereby the growth of the corporation business. The Minister should respond to that whether he has agreed to limit it or the proposal stands as it is, is going to accept. So, in view of that we are opposing this Bill.

We have reservation rather opposition particularly in case of diluting 95 per cent to 90 percent and to the Central Government from five per cent to 10 per cent. And what about the LIC agents? Any welfare measures or anything should be taken for the benefit of the agents.

They are the real drivers of this sector. Their number is not less than 28 lakhs in our country. At least, I hope the Minister in his reply would say something with regard to the LIC agents of our country. I hope, he is going to take some sort of welfare measure for them.

Another very important point which other hon. Members also apprehended, I do share that this sort of trend should be avoided in the name of globalization and liberalisation. They are going to corporatise, going to privatise this LIC organisation. This should be stopped. The Government should stop this. The Government should respond very positively to the particular proposal which has been raised here.

With these words, I put my objections and oppose this Bill.

डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह (वैशाती): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जीवन बीमा निगम का जो कानून आया है, उस पर कई माननीय सदस्यों को हमने सुना। सरकार के मूल विधेयक में हैं कि पांच करोड़ से शौं करोड़ तक पूंजी को बढ़ा दिया जाए। लेकिन उसके बाद पेंचवाला सवाल यह हैं कि सरकार जब चाहेगी उसे बढ़ा देगी। यह कौन सा कानून हैं। यानी जब आप अपने हाथ में इस अधिकार का कानून ले रहे हैं कि जब मन में आयेगा तो बढ़ा देंगे तो पांच से शौं का क्या मतलब हुआ। आपने हजार, दो हजार, पांच हजार या दस हजार अभी क्यों नहीं कर लिया। आप अपने हाथ में अधिकार रख रहे हैंं। लोगों को कानून बता रहे हैं कि पांच करोड़ से शौं करोड़, जबकि में समझता हूं कि उसकी लेंग्वेज देखी जाए कि जब सरकार चाहेगी, तब बाइ नोटिफिकेशन उसे बढ़ा देगी। ऐसा कानून आप ही रखिये। इसका मतलब यह हैं कि आप अपनी मनमानी करते रहेंगे, जब मन होगा बढ़ा देंगे और जब मन होगा, घटा देंगे। यह कौन सा कानून हुआ? इसलिए वामपंथी लोग ठीक कहते हैं कि चे लोग पृद्वेटाइजेशन कर रहे हैं।

महोदय, अभी भ्री हरीश चौंधरी भाषण कर रहे थे। पुराने जमाने में राजा-महाराजाओं के समय में भी यह था। तेकिन सन् 1912 में रेगुतेशन से यह कानून आ गया। उसके बाद 1938 में भी हुआ और सन् 1956 में नेशनलाइन होकर 240 प्राइवेट कंपनियों को एकजुट करके इंश्योरेंस का काम चल रहा हैं। इसमें रंग-बिरंगी बीमा योजनाएं हैं, जिन पर आज सवाल उठ रहे हैं। तेकिन अभी 25-26 करोड़ तोग इससे आच्छादित हुए हैं और एजेन्टों की संख्या लगभग तीस तास्त हैं, जिसके बारे में सुनते हैं कि ये तोग घटा रहे हैं, यानी ये तोग चाहते हैं कि इन्हें घटा दिया जाए। पांच वर्षों में इनका तक्ष्य है कि 25-26 करोड़ से पचास करोड़ तोगों को इससे आच्छादित किया जाए। हम जानना चाहते हैं कि यदि एजेन्ट्स घट जायेंगे तो इतने तोगों का आच्छादन कैसे होगा? इसतिए एजेन्ट्स की संख्या भी बढ़ाई जाए। क्योंकि अभी जो 25-26 करोड़ तोगों का आच्छादन है, पांच वर्ष में आप 50-60 करोड़ तोगों का करना चाहते हैं और उसके बाद आप फिर आगे का तक्ष्य बढ़ाकर

रखेंगे। हमारे देश के करीब दस करोड़ लोगों के रोजगार गारंटी कानून के कारण बैंक्स में या पोस्ट ऑफिसेज में खाते खुल गये हैं। हम जानना चाहते हैं कि उनका इंश्योरेंस कब तक होगा? हम जनशी बीमा योजना के बारे में बहुत सुनते हैं, यह धोखा है। हम जानना चाहते हैं कि उपरोक्त दस करोड़ लोगों में से कितने लोगों का इंश्योरेंस हुआ है। जो दस करोड़ लोग रोजगार गारंटी कानून के तहत काम कर रहे हैं और जिनके बैंकों और पोस्ट आफिसेज में खाते खुले हैं, उनमें से कितने लोगों का इंश्योरेंस हुआ है और यदि नहीं हुआ है तो कब तक इंश्योरेंश होगा। आपने जनशी बीमा योजना बनाई है, जिसमें सौ रुपये भारत सरकार देगी, आप कभी पांच सौ करोड़ रुपये दे देते हैं, कभी हजार करोड़

रुपये दे देते हैं। आपने राज्य सरकारों पर छोड़ दिया। लेकिन राज्य सरकारों को कहां समझ हैं और उनके पास पैसा कहां हैं। जो सौ रुपये पूर्ति मजदूर देने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं, फिर यह काम कैसे होगा। इसलिए जो तमाम गरीब लोग मजदूरी कर रहे हैं, उन सभी मजदूरों का जीवन बीमा कैसे सुनिश्चित हो, इसका अभी तक क्या पूबंध हुआ हैं, क्या पूर्गित हुई हैं।

15.00 hrs.

कितने लोगों का बीमा हुआ हैं? कब तक सब का बीमा हो जाएगा? रोजगार गारंटी कानून में जितने लोग लगे हुए हैं अनिवार्य जनभी बीमा योजना के अंतर्गत उनका कपरेज होना चाहिए। किसान मेहनत कर करता है लेकिन उसको कुछ नहीं मिलता। जो लोग नौकरी कर रहे हैं उनको पेशन दीजिए, इज्जत दीजिए, प्रमोशन दीजिए, इंक्रीमेंट दीजिए और सारी मार किसानों पर पड़ रही हैं। उनकी फसल बीमा योजना में भी ऐसा-ऐसा पेंच लगाया जाता है कि वह भी उनको नहीं मिल पाती हैं।

15.01 hrs.

(Shri Francisco Cosme Sardinha in the Chair)

किसानों के लिए बराबर आफ़त हैं, बाढ़ हैं, सूखाड़ हैं, और सरकार हैं। सब तरफ से किसानों पर ही आफ़त हैं। उनका बीमा कब तक और कैसे होगा?

महोदय, एक बात है कि कुछ-कुछ राशि उनकी भी लगेगी या जमा करते-करते वे मर जाएंगे तो उनको बहुत फ़ायदा होगा। हम सरकार से एक नया प्रावधान करवाना चाहते हैं कि जो गरीब आदमी है, जब वह मर जाएगा तो बीमा के प्रावधान के तहत वह सहायता उसके परिवार को मिल जाएगी। लेकिन अगर नहीं मरे, जीवित रह जाए तो उसको घाटा न हो, उसके लिए भी कुछ उपाय होना चाहिए। ऐसा कौन-सा कानून है कि उसके मरने के बाद फायदा होगा अगर जीवित रह गया तो उसको फायदा नहीं होगा उसका घाटा होगा। इस कानून में सुधार करना चाहिए। भारत सरकार तो सौ रूपया प्रति व्यक्ति जनभी बीमा योजना में दे रही है और सौ रूपया या तो राज्य सरकार दे या अन्य कोई संगठन दे या वह व्यक्ति अपने आप दे। यह कानून का प्रावधान है। अब उसमें कितनी राज्य सरकारों ने सौ रूपया दिया है, आप उसका हिसाब बताइए? कुछ राज्य सरकारों की मनमानी है कि वह इसे करे या न करे लेकिन इसमें गरीब ही मारा जाएगा। मजदूर को रोटी तो बराबर मिलती नहीं है, वह बेचारा बीमा के लिए कहां से जमा करेगा? उसके लिए क्या प्रावधान हुआ है? जो बड़े आदमी हैं और जो देशी-विदेशी प्राइवेट कंपनियां आ रही हैं वे रंग-बिरंगे इंश्योरेंस ला रहे हैं। गाड़ियों, ट्रकों व बसों के इंश्योरेंस आ रहे हैं। उन सब का उपाय है, चोरी के कागज़ बना कर उनका पैसा निकाल लिया जाता है। एक्सीडेंट नहीं हुआ केवल थोड़ा धवका लगा तो संपूर्ण बस के बीमा का पैसा निकाल लिया जाता है। मैं यह सब देख और समझ रहा हुँ।

गरीब आदमी को कोई सहायता नहीं मिल पाती हैं। किसान मर जाता है लेकिन उसके परिवार की कोई सहायता करने वाला नहीं होता हैं। दिल्ली में हमारे यहां का मजदूर मर जाता हैं। चार-पांच मंजिल तक सर पर ईट उठा कर ले जाता हैं, गिर कर मर जाता हैं, लेकिन कोई देखने वाला नहीं हैं। उसके लिए न कोई जीवन बीमा होता हैं और न कोई कापीरेशन होता हैं। यह जो 5-6 करोड़ किया गया हैं, उसको बढ़ाया क्यों नहीं गया हैं? अपनी मनमानी और अधिकार रख लिया कि जब मन में आएगा तब बढ़ाएंगे, जहां चाहेंगे वहां बढ़ाएंगें। इसका जवाब दें। रोजगार गारंटी कानून में जो गरीब मजदूर काम करता है उसका अनिवार्य बीमा कब तक हो जाएगा? कितने तोगों का हुआ हैं, कितने राज्य सरकारों ने किया नहीं किया हैं, यह सब बताएं। उसके बाद स्वारस्थ बीमा की बात हैं। गरीब आदमी को स्वारस्थ बीमा के रूप में तीस हजार रूपये मिलेंगे, यह तो आपके वित्त विभाग को देखना हैं। सभी गरीब आदमियों का स्वारस्थ बीमा कब तक होगा, कैसे होगा, वया उपाय किया गया है या राज्य सरकार पर छोड़ दिया हैं? यह केंद्र सरकार की जिम्मेदारी हैं कि कोई राज्य सरकार पीछे छूट जाए या उसको समझ में नहीं आए या गरीबोन्मुखी नहीं हैं, समतामुखी हैं, किसानोन्मुखी नहीं हैं, मजदूरोन्मुखी नहीं हैं तो भारत सरकार की जिम्मेदारी बनती है कि हम उनको देखें। किसान, मजदूर गरीब मेहनतकश लोगों का भला कैसे होगा?

महोदय, फराल बीमा वाला कृषि विभाग से संबंधित विषय हैं, लेकिन सारे मामले का मालिक फाइनेंस डिपार्टमेंट हैं और ये इंश्योरेंस का विधेयक लाये हैं। एक्सीडेंट्स हो रहे हैं, हर साल देश में दस लाख लोग सड़क हादसों में मरते हैं, उनके इंश्योरेंस के लिए वया व्यवस्था हैं? गाड़ी वाला टक्कर मारकर भाग गया तो कहते हैं कि नम्बर ही नहीं है तो इनका कैसे होगा? वह बेचारा कोर्ट, कचहरी में दौड़ता रहता हैं। गरीब आदमी जो एक्सीडेंट्स में मर जाते हैं, मोटर साईकिल से, स्कूटर से, बस से, ट्रक से, टैम्पू से, रेल आदि से एक्सीडेंट्स में मर जाते हैं, इन सारे लोगों की संख्या साल में दस लाख हैं। कुछ देशों की आबादी भी दस लाख नहीं होगी, लेकिन हमारे उतने लोग हर साल एक्सीडेंट्स में मर खे हैं। उनका तुरन्त भुगतान होना चाहिए, इसके बारे में क्या हो रहा हैं? किसानों के पास बहुत बड़ी संख्या में जानकर हैं, उनके जीवन-बीमा का कैसे आव्छादन होगा? किसान दस हजार, बीस हजार रूपये की पूंजी लगाकर, बैंक से लोग लेकर गाय, भैंस खरीदते हैं। बीमारी से गाय, भैंस मर जाती हैं तो किसान बेहाल हो जाता है, वह रूपग्रस्त हो जाता है, लेकिन उसका कोई उपाय नहीं है। इन सभी मामलों का उत्तर माननीय मंत्री जी सदन को बतायें कि कैसे किसान, मजदूर और गरीब लोगों का भला होगा? जीवन बीमा की जो ये देशी, विदेशी कंपनियां देश में आ रही हैं, इनसे क्या खतार हैं, इनसे सुक्सा है, इन सबसे कैसे लोगों को सहायता दी जाये, पीड़ित लोगों या पीड़ित परिवारों को इनसे कैसे सहायता मिले, इसका क्या उपाय हो सकता है, इन सब बातों को माननीय मंत्री जी साफ-साफ बतायें, तब बिल पास होगा, नहीं तो हम लोग अड़चन खड़ी कर देंगे। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देता हूं। धन्यवाद।

भूरे रवीन्द्र कुमार पाण्डेय (भिरिडीह): महोदय, आपने मुझे भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम के संशोधन विधेयक पर बोतने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं। हमसे पूर्व वक्ताओं ने सारे विषय को रख दिया हैं। हम आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहते हैं कि आजादी के बाद से लेकर अभी तक भारतवर्ष की जनता का विश्वास लाइफ इंश्योरेंस, जीवन बीमा निगम पर हैं। यह विश्वास कोई दो,चार या पांच साल में नहीं बना है, इस विश्वास को बनने में 50 साल लगे हैं। आज अगर देखा जाये तो प्राइवेट इंश्योरेंस कंपनियों का जो आगमन इस देश में हो रहा हैं, वे जिन लोगों का इंश्योरेंस करती हैं और इंश्योरेंस करने के बाद उनका ऑफिस बंद हो जाता हैं, वे चले जाते हैं। वह जो जनता हैं, जिन्होंने उनसे गलती से इंश्योरेंस करवा लिया या मान लीजिये वे दिभूमित हो गये, उसके लिए वया व्यवस्था वर्तमान सरकार के द्वारा की जा रही हैं? साथ ही साथ किसानों के लिए जो बीमा की योजना हैं, अगर इसे देखा जाये तो भारत में जितने भी किसानों का बीमा हुआ, उनके खेत-खितहान का बीमा हुआ, कार्यालय में जाते-जाते उनका आधा जीवन समाप्त हो रहा है और तब जाकर उन्हें भुगतान होता हैं। अगर हम एजेंट्स की बात करें तो लगभग पूरे भारत में 30 लाख एजेंट्स हैं।

यदि पाँच व्यक्ति पूर्ति परिचार भी तथाए जाएँ तो तथभग डेढ़ करोड़ तोग होते हैं। इन डेढ़ करोड़ तोगों के बारे में भारत सरकार का क्या चिन्तन हैं? क्या उनको पैन्शन मिल रही है, क्या जिस पूकार दूसरी संस्थाओं में पूर्विडेन्ट फंड मिलता है, क्या उस पूकार से उनको मिलता हैं? भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम के जो मृतक आश्चित कर्मचारी हैं, क्या उनको मरने के बाद नौकरी मिली? क्या वे भी आज फटेहाल घूम रहे हैं? आज की तारीख में हमें इस पर सोचना होगा कि जो नरेगा में मज़दूर हैं उनकी क्या रिथति हैं। अभी हमारे यहाँ झारखंड में बोकारो जिला में नरेगा का एक मज़दूर मरा हैं। आज यदि उसका इंश्येरैन्स होता तो शायद उस परिचार को कुछ लाभ मिलता लेकिन सरकार की घोषणाएँ होती हैं और वह सरज़मीं पर हम कैसे उतारें, इसका चिन्तन नहीं किया जाता हैं। आज की तारीख में अगर देखा जाए तो चाहे वह मज़दूर हों, किसान हों, भारत में लगभग 60 पूर्तिशत केका मज़दूर या किसान मज़दूर काम कर रहे हैं। उनके इंश्येरैन्स का क्या पूराधान हैं? विदेशों से तो इंश्येरैन्स कंपनियाँ भारत में आ रही हैं, लेकिन क्या भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम को विदेश के लोग बुलाते हैं? इस पर हमें बूक लगाने की आवश्यकता हैं। सबसे बड़ी बात है कि यह जो सैवशन 18 हैं, इसको हटाया नहीं गया हैं। इसिएए कि आज अगर हम इसको हटाते हैं तो आने वाले समय में इसका क्या इंपैक्ट पड़ेगा इसको हमें देखना पड़ेगा। चूँकि इसी में जो चौथा नंबर का सैवशन हैं, इसको हटा देते हैं तो वहाँ कार्यालय खुलने में कठिनाई आएगी और सबसे बड़ी बात है कि हम पैसा कहाँ से लाएँ। इसमें दिया गया है कि हम जो अमैन्समें के बाद हम उसको क्या लाभ तत्काल दे सकते हैं। अभी रघुंग बाद ही करता के बाद ही ताभ मिलता हैं। मरने के पहले चें वह सोचना होगा कि मरने के बाद हम उसको क्या लाभ तत्काल दें। अभी रघुंग बाद के कहा ही ताभ मिलता हैं। मरने के पहले चें वह सोचना होगा कि मरने के बाद हम उसको क्या लाभ तत्काल दें। अभी रघुंग बाद के कहा ही ताभ मिलता हैं। मरने के पहले चें वह सोचना होगा तिम तो अच्छा हैं।

डॉ. रघुवंश पुसाद सिंह (वैशाली): बिना मरे भी लाभ मिलना चाहिए।

श्री स्वीन्द्र कुमार पाण्डेय (निरिडीह): जी हाँ, बिना मरे भी लाभ मिलना चाहिए। हमारा आपसे आगृह है कि झारखंड में किसान के खेतों का जो बीमा हुआ है, उसका आज तक लोगों को भुगतान नहीं हुआ है। उसमें लगभग तीस पूर्तिशत लोगों का भुगतान हुआ, बाकी लोगों को भुगतान नहीं किया गया है। हम चाहते हैं कि आपके माध्यम से उन लोगों का भुगतान होना चाहिए और जो सैक्शन 18 है, इसको ओमिट नहीं किया जाए और इस पर भारत सरकार चिन्तन करे। धन्यवाद।

DR. TARUN MANDAL (JAYNAGAR): Thank you, Sir. LIC is a huge financial institution to which this amendment has been moved by our hon. Minister. It is a very sound, one of the profit making institutions of India which is controlled by the Government.

As people repose faith on the governmental institutions but not on Governments, LIC is also enjoying huge confidence of our people than any other private players in the insurance fields like TATA AIG, Bajaj Allianz, MeTLife, etc.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that these private players in the insurance fields are having some hidden agenda, which are not properly explained to the policyholders and ultimately they exploit them. The Government must look out within its ambit about the activities of these organisations.

The LIC not only gives service of huge money lending, etc., to the industrialists and big entrepreneurs but also to the middle bracket and higher income groups of people. It gives benefit, particularly, for the policy holders or the consumers and at the same time, to a number of employees of LIC, which are around 2.5 lakh employees and around 30 lakh of LIC agents, who are actually giving a yeomen's service for the health and growth of LIC.

But I cannot welcome this Amendment Bill. It is because the Government from its earlier Malhotra Committee and after that follow up Committees to see and examine the financial health of such a premier institution or following the policy of liberalisation, globalisation, privatisation and commercialisation, will facilitate the way of disinvestment and get entries of private players in the insurance sector of India.

Time and again, I have seen that LIC employees, agents and their family members are on demonstrations and *dharnas*. I have also attended the same with many other Members of Parliament. I have also forwarded the applications, particularly, of employees and agents to our hon. Minister of Finance for consideration. But still their future is hanging. I must in this scope request our hon. Minister to settle and assure the future of our agents and employees, whose life should not be destroyed on the plea of amendment, etc.

In regard to farming sector, already some Members have mentioned that insurance for the crops, particularly, for the small and marginal farmers are absolutely necessary in West Bengal. Most of the small and marginal farmers are not having crop insurance. Due to this, suicides among the farmers are also increasing there like many other States of our country.

The LIC must innovate some avenues so that financial benefits can be given to students, patients, new doctors,

technical persons, who are trying to get a hold on their professions. They should also be helped for building hospitals, etc.

My final point is regarding properties. LIC gets mortgage of these properties by way of agreements, all over the nation. But I have seen most of these properties are being destroyed due to non-maintenance. It is a national loss. They should be properly maintained or properly utilised for social purposes like schools, hospitals or any other purpose but these national assets should not be destroyed just because they were mortgaged.

By this I do not want that this Amendment should be moved. I am opposing this Amendment for the benefit of the LIC employees, people of India and agents of LIC.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM): Sir, LIC has been consistently a good performer serving a large number of policy holders and significantly contributing its reserves in areas where these are most needed. With the opening up of life insurance sector, LIC has now to grapple with stiff, unhealthy and cut-throat competition from private players.

I have strong reservations on the proposal to amend Sections 48 and 49 of the LIC Act, 1956. These provisions empower the Central Government to determine the terms and conditions of service of the agents of the corporation. By this amendment, this power of the Central Government is being given away to the LIC with overall supervision under IRDA. The reason being given for such a change is to bring the insurance agents in parity with other workers involved in the similar areas of functioning and to treat the LIC like any other insurance company. But, I strongly feel that by such an amendment, the Government is seriously compromising on the work conditions and job security of the LIC agents numbering more than 14 lakhs. They have done a great service to the nation by spreading the concept of insurance cover and stimulating small savings across the country but the amendment is unjustly treating them at par with sellers of high risk investment plans like mutual funds.

With the amendment of the Insurance Act, the recent regulations have made the working conditions of agents more demanding. The LIC has now asked its agents to meet the minimum requirements like Rs.1 lakh premium per annum, minimum enrolling of 12 life insurance policies per annum and annual renewal of 50 per cent of policies per annum. These demands would *prima facie* appear to be reasonable but it is not so in reality due to the economic instability of a large number of people covered in rural and urban areas and the limited exposure that the agents have on the potential clients. Such measures have threatened the existence of up to 65 per cent of insurance agencies.

The present amendment on agents, if passed, would further aggravate the plight of insurance agents as until now they had the protection of the Central Government on working conditions. The amendment in line with legislations of the developed world is premature in our society and it is though well intentioned would surely have negative impact on the agents. Thus, going with the spirit of LIC Act, we must support the Standing Committee's recommendation which has warned against such an amendment with regard to agents and has instead suggested steps to be taken for equipping the LIC agents by imparting them better professional training, creating welfare funds with pension benefits...(*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing would go on record.

(Interruptions) … *

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM): To this I would also add an immediate end to direct sale of policies by company as it is not only unjust but uncompetitive in spirit.

With these words, I conclude.

श्री अर्जुन राम मेघवात (बीकानेर): धन्यवाद सभापति जी, आपने मुझे जीवन बीमा निगम (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2009 पर बोलने का अवसर दिया। मैं सिर्फ़ दो मिनट बोलूंगा। यह जीवन बीमा निगम का संशोधन विधेयक हैं। जीवन बीमा निगम की पॉलिसी पर जब कोई विवाद होता है तो इनके यहां एक कमेटी बनी हुई हैं और ये मैंटर उस कमेटी में भेज देते हैंं। फिर उसके साथ एक समझौता करते हैं कि 50 पूतिशत ते लीजिए, 30 पूतिशत ते लीजिए, 40 पूतिशत ते लीजिए, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इस कमेटी के बाद भी लोग कन्ज्यूमर कोर्ट में जाते हैं और सैंकड़ों मुक़दमें अभी जीवन बीमा निगम और कन्ज्यूमर कोर्ट के बीच में चल रहे हैं। यह बिल टोटैलिटी में आना चाहिए था और जो कन्ज्यूमर कोर्ट में मामले चल रहे हैं, उनका भी इसमें समावेश करके जो पॉलिसीधारक हैं, उनको भी इसका बेनेफिट देना चाहिए था, वह इस संशोधन विधेयक में नहीं लाया गया है, इसलिए मैं यह सुझाव दे रहा हूं।

दूसरी बात जो मैं कहना चाह रहा हूं कि जो एत.आई.सी. से संबंधित विज्ञापन आते हैं, उसकी कोई समीक्षा करता है या नहीं करता, मुझे समझ में नहीं आता। कुछ विज्ञापन तो बहुत अच्छे हैं जो जीवन भर के लिए पूभाव डालते हैं। जैसे एक विज्ञापन है कि जिंदगी के साथ भी और जिंदगी के बाद भी- जो असर डालते हैं। कुछ अन्य विज्ञापन हैं। जैसे एक शादी वाला विज्ञापन आ रहा है कि कौन-सी लड़की से शादी करोगे? जिसकी तनख्वाह ज्यादा हो, जिसका पिता बहुत पैसे वाला हो तो वे कहते हैं कि आप इंडाउमेंट एत.आई.सी. ले लीजिए और शादी तो उससे करो जिससे पूम करो। आप इसकी समीक्षा कीजिए। जो वाकई पूभाव डालने वाले विज्ञापन हैं, उन्हीं को रिवए और अन्य विज्ञापनों की समीक्षा करके उन्हें हटाइए।

मंत्री जी ने अपने प्रारंभिक रिमार्क में कॉरपोरेट सोशत रिस्पॉनिसबितिटी की बात कही थी, वह इस एक्ट का पार्ट नहीं हैं। जब भारत सरकार ने दो प्रतिशत सी.एस.आर. करने के निर्देश जारी कर ही दिये हैं तो वह इस एक्ट का पार्ट बनना चाहिए। आपने मुझे बोतने का अवसर दिया, उसके तिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Sir, in all, 15 hon. Members have participated in the discussion. I would like to thank all of them for their valuable suggestions and inputs. Before responding to the specific issues raised by the hon. Members, I would like to mention about the Life Insurance Corporation of India since several hon. Members have raised questions regarding the performance of LIC of India.

Sir, the LIC of India was set up in the year 1956 to ensure security to policyholders in the matter of their life insurance protection and to spread insurance much more widely. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please maintain silence.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you may please address the Chair.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: The LIC of India, the only Government-owned life insurance company as against 23 life insurance companies in the private sector. Life Insurance Corporation is the market leader in the insurance market even after 10 years of opening up of the insurance sector to private companies. The market share of LIC of India as on 31.10.2011 is 74 per cent in terms of number of policies issued and 78 per cent in terms of premium earned during this year. LIC's total investment as on 31st March, 2011 is Rs. 12.6 lakh crore which is about 18 per cent of India's GDP in 2010-11. As on 31st September, LIC has invested Rs. 4 lakh crore in the Central Government securities; Rs. 1.76 lakh crore in the State Government securities and Rs. 1.65 lakh crore in the housing infrastructure like power, irrigation, water supply, sewage, ports, bridges and roads. In 2010-11, the LIC has settled 1.76 lakh maturity claims by paying Rs. 49,000 crore to its policyholders. Out of these claims, 96 per cent of the claims have been paid in advance, through post-dated cheques so that the policyholders could get their money on time. The LIC settled 7.2 lakh death claims in 2010-11 by paying over Rs. 8,000 crore of which again 95 per cent claims were paid within 15 days from the date of intimation of death. LIC rejected only one per cent of the individual death claims during 2010-11 as compared to the average rejection rate of 8.9 per cent by the rest of the companies in the sector.

Sir, now I would like to respond to some of the issues raised by hon. Members. Shri Shiv Kumar Udasi and several other hon. Members talked about the power to open branches by LIC. There seems to have been some confusion about the fact that his power is being taken away. No. LIC shall establish as many Divisional Offices and branches which may be decided by the LIC of India in accordance with the guidelines issued by IRDA under the Act in this regard. Therefore, permission of IRDA is not required in these two cases since they have to work under the guidelines issued by the IRDA.

The hon. Finance Minister took a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the Eastern States on credit flow. Some questions came

before him in that meeting that there are no LIC offices in some districts. The hon. Finance Minister gave the order then and there itself to open branches in at least all the districts, specially in the North-Eastern States. So, there is no question of taking away the power.

Shri Shiv Kumar also raised a question regarding Section 28. I have already clarified that the provisions of valuation surplus and its retention will be with prospective effect from the date of notification and all existing policy holders will continue to get 95 per cent return level from the policy. This is from prospective effect. It will be applicable on the new policies after the notification is issued....(*Interruptions*)

Shri Shiv Kumar and Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh also raised about the capital increase from Rs. 5 crore to Rs. 100 crore. In the initial LIC Bill, 2009, it was proposed to increase the capital beyond Rs. 100 crore by notification of the Central Government as per the recommendations of the Standing Committee. Capital beyond Rs. 100 crore is to be raised through appropriation made by the Parliament by moving an amendment in the Act. Thus, there is no question of diluting the Government stake and LIC will remain 100 per cent with the Government.

Shri Rama Shankar raised the question of reservation of SCs and STs. He said they are not given employment. Sir, I would like to say some figures on this point. The number of employees belonging to SCs and STs in LIC are as under. In Class I officers cadre, the Scheduled Castes figure is 18 per cent and STs figure is 7.1 per cent. In Class II category, in Divisional Officers, the SCs form 15.63 per cent and STs form 6.77 per cent. In Class III category, SCs are 17.68 per cent and STs are 7.78 per cent. For Class IV category, the figure of Scheduled Castes is 22.88 per cent and STs figure is over ten per cent as against 16 per cent. As regards Class IV, it is 53.72 per cent and SCs and STs, it is 6.12 per cent.

As far as the policy of the UPA Government is concerned, the SCs, the STs and the OBCs are being recruited and it appears that there is no backlog. In some of the posts, the number is more. If at all there is any backlog in this regard, it will be looked into.

Shri Shailendra Kumar and Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh also raised about insurance cover to the poor people. I clarified that AABY is a scheme for rural landless households. There is also the Jan Shree Bima Yojana. Under JBY, there are 45 categories including workers in organised sector, rural and urban poor. By paying an annual premium of Rs. 200 out of which 50 per cent is subsidy by the Government of India, the life of such policy holders is covered to an extent of Rs. 30,000 for normal death and Rs. 75,000 for accidental death or for any disability.

The cover of households is 2.94 crore under the JBY and 1.87 crore under AABY. Many hon. Members, including Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, raised the issue of LIC agents. The number of agents is determined by the LIC based on their business potential. The number of insurance agents has gone up from 11.93 lakhs in 2007-08 to 13.44 lakhs in 2008-09 and further it has gone up to 14 lakhs in 2009-10. It has come down slightly to 13.4 lakhs in 2010-11. Depending upon the business potential, the actual number will be determined. The average commission has increased from Rs. 57,000 in 2001 to Rs. 99,536 in 2010, which is almost Rs. 1 lakh.

Shri Thamaraiselvan and some other hon. Members raised the issue of jurisdiction of Ombudsman to cover the agents. In this regard, the Government is actively considering appropriate modification in the rules governing Ombudsman to cover agents under the purview of these schemes. Hon. Member Shri Satpathy raised the question of dilution of the status of the LIC. I would like to assure the hon. Member that there is no question of diluting the LIC's status. I would like to tell him that the LIC, despite this sector having been opened up in 2000 and despite the presence of 23 private insurance companies in the country, as I have already told you, as on 31 st September, 2011, holds 74 per cent of market share in terms of number of policies issued and 78 per cent in terms of premium collected in this year.

A question regarding the language in respect of issue of licence to the agents was raised. Licensing to the LIC agents and its various provisions are presently governed by the regulator, the IRDA. The training material and conduct of examination for agents are dealt by the IRDA-accredited institutions. The issue regarding conduct of examination, and providing training materials in regional languages will be taken up with the IRDA for conduct of examination in regional languages on the on-line mode. Since the IRDA is the regulator, we will communicate your feelings to the IRDA to consider it.

I would like to clarify that the power of the Central Government to enhance the capital by notification has been withdrawn. I have already clarified it. But Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh raised this issue. The power of the Central Government to enhance the capital by notification under clause 5 has been withdrawn. सर, यह खरान हो गया है, विदश् कर रखा है। ...(<u>व्यवधान</u>) The paid up capital of Rs. 100 crore will be provided by the Central Government after the appropriation is made by the Parliament by law for this purpose.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) … *

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Let me complete. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb. Nothing will go on record except the Minister's reply.

(Interruptions) … *

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Any further increase in the equity capital beyond Rs. 100 crore is to be done by carrying out necessary amendment in the Act. It has to be approved by the Parliament. Sir, this is in the official amendment, serial number four. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, I have replied to the amendments moved by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what the hon. Minister says.

(Interruptions) … *

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: The issue of retention of the valuation surplus for the policy holders has been raised by Shri Shivkumar, Shri Harish Choudhary, Shri Rama Shankar Rajbhar and by Shri Arjun Roy. An amendment is also moved by Shri Bansagopal Choudhry.

I would like to state in this connection that the objective of the amendment was to bring LIC Act, 1956 in conformity with the Insurance Act, 1938 and to provide for distribution of ninety per cent of the surplus generated amongst the policy holders. The amendment also proposed creation of a Reserve Fund with the LIC. So, a Reserve Fund will be created.

Sir, presently, LIC is dependent on the financial support from the Government of India for expanding its operations. I would reiterate that the fund so reserved will be used only for meeting the expenses towards expansion of insurance business, strengthen solvency margin and also help in fulfilling the corporate responsibility.

Presently, the LIC is implementing various schemes for the welfare of weaker sections of the society. For implementation of these schemes, the funds are provided by the Central Government.

Sir, in the end, however, I would like to reiterate that this amendment is in consonance with the Insurance Act 1938, which is applicable to all other life insurance companies and assure the hon. House that this amendment would be effective prospectively. This amendment would not have any adverse effect on the existing policyholders of LIC and will be applicable for the new policies from the date of notification.

Sir, with these remarks, I commend this Bill for the consideration of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 Substitution of New Section for Section 5

Amendments made:

Page 1, line 7, -

for "5"

substitute "5.(1)". (3)

Page 1, for lines 9 and 10,-

substitute "by law for the purpose". (4)

Page 1, after line 10,-

Insert "(2) The Corporation may issue and sell bonds and debentures

or such other prescribed instruments carrying interest for the

purpose of raising its working capital to such amount as may

be prescribed." .(5)

(Shri Namo Narain Meena)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 Amendment of Section 18

Amendment made:

Page 2, for lines 1, substitute,-

'(3). In Section 18 of the principal Act, for sub-section

Clause 3

Amendment made:

Page 2, for lines 1, substitute,-

'(3). In Section 18 of the principal Act, for sub-section

(4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-

"(4)."There may be established as many divisional offices and branches in each zone as may be decided by the Corporation in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority established under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 in this regard.".'. (6)

(Shri Namo Narain Meena)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 Substitution of New Section for Section 28

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bansagopal, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI BANSA GOPAL CHOWDHURY (ASANSOL): Sir, I beg to move:

Page 2, line 8,-

for "ninety"

substitute "ninety-five". (10)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put Amendment No. 10 moved by Shri Bansagopal Choudhury to the vote of the House.

Those in favour may please say 'Aye'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: 'Aye'

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those against may please say 'No'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: 'No'.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the 'Noes' have it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The "Ayes' have it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have demanded Division. We will have Division now. Let the Lobbies be clearedâ€"

Now, the Lobbies have been cleared.

The question is:

Page 2, line 8,--

for "ninety"

substitute "ninety-five" (10)

The Lok Sabha divided:

DIVISION 15.52 Hrs.

AYES

Acharia, Shri Basu Deb

Baske, Shri Pulin Bihari

Chowdhury, Shri Bansa Gopal

Dome, Dr. Ram Chandra

Karunakaran, Shri P.

Lingam, Shri P.

Malik, Shri Sakti Mohan

Mandal, Dr. Tarun

Natarajan, Shri P.R.

Panda, Shri Prabodh

Rajesh, Shri M.B.

Riyan, Shri Baju Ban

Roy, Shri Mahendra Kumar

Saha, Dr. Anup Kumar

Sampath, Shri A.

Satpathy, Shri Tathagata

Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

NOES

Aaron Rashid, Shri J.M.

Agarwal, Shri Jai Prakash

Ahir, Shri Hansraj G.

Amlabe, Shri Narayan Singh

Argal, Shri Ashok

Bais, Shri Ramesh

Baite, Shri Thangso

Baliram, Dr.

Balmiki, Shri Kamlesh

Banerjee, Shri Ambica

Banerjee, Shri Kalyan

Bansal, Shri Pawan Kumar

Bapiraju, Shri K.

Basavaraj, Shri G. S.

Beg, Dr. Mirza Mehboob

Besra, Shri Devidhan

Biswal, Shri Hemanand

Chakravarty, Shrimati Bijoya

Chauhan, Shri Prabhatsinh P.

Chidambaram, Shri P.

Chitthan, Shri N.S.V.

*Choudhary, Shri Bhudeo

Choudhary, Shri Harish

Chowdhary, Shrimati Santosh

Davidson, Shrimati J. Helen

De, Dr. Ratna

Dhanapalan, Shri K. P.

Dhruvanarayana, Shri R.

Dikshit, Shri Sandeep Dubey, Shri Nishikant Engti, Shri Biren Singh Ering, Shri Ninong Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodlya Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram Gogoi, Shri Dip Gouda, Shri Shivarama Haque, Shri Mohd. Asrarul Hassan, Dr. Monazir Hussain, Shri Ismail Jaiswal, Shri Gorakh Prasad Jakhar, Shri Badri Ram Jena, Shri Srikant Jhansi Lakshmi, Shrimati Botcha Kashyap, Shri Virender *Kaypee, Shri Mohinder Singh Kharge, Shri Mallikarjun Krishnasswamy, Shri M. Kumar, Shri Kaushalendra Kumar, Shri Ramesh Kumar, Shri Shailendra Kumari, Shrimati Putul Kurup, Shri N. Peethambara Lakshmi, Shrimati Panabaka Madam, Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai Mahato, Shri Baidyanath Prasad Mandal, Shri Mangani Lal Manjhi, Shri Hari Mcleod, Shrimati Ingrid

Meena, Shri Namo Narain Meena, Shri Raghuvir Singh Meghwal, Shri Arjun Ram Meinya, Dr. Thokchom

Mishra, Shri Govind Prasad

*Moily, Shri M. Veerappa

Narah, Shrimati Ranee

Narayanasamy, Shri V.

*Natrajan, Kumari Meenakshi

Nirupam, Shri Sanjay

Noor, Kumari Mausam

Pandey, Dr. Vinay Kumar

Pandey, Shri Gorakhnath

Pandey, Shri Rakesh

Pandey, Shri Ravindra Kumar

Paswan, Shri Kamlesh

Patel, Shri Dinsha

Patel, Shri Kishanbhai V.

Pradhan, Shri Amarnath

Premdas, Shri

Purandeswari, Shrimati D.

Rajagopal, Shri L.

Ramasubbu, Shri S.S.

Rathwa, Shri Ramsinh

Roy, Shri Arjun

Ruala, Shri C.L.

Sayeed, Shri Hamdullah

Shekhawat, Shri Gopal Singh

Singh, Shri Ijyaraj

Singh, Shri R.P.N.

Singh, Shri Ravneet

Singh, Shri Rewati Raman

Singh, Shri Sukhdev

Singh, Shri Sushil Kumar

Singh, Shri Uday Pratap

Singh, Shri Vijay Bahadur

Sinha, Shri Shatrughan

Solanki, Shri Makansingh
Suklabaidya, Shri Lalit Mohan
Tagore, Shri Manicka
Tandon, Shrimati Annu
Taviad, Dr. Prabha Kishor
Tewari, Shri Manish
Thakor, Shri Jagdish

Tharoor, Dr. Shashi

Thamaraiselvan, Shri R.

Thomas, Prof. K.V.

<u>∗</u>Thomas, Shri P.T.

*Udasi, Shri Shivkumar

Venugopal, Shri D.

Vundavalli, Shri Aruna Kumar

Vyas, Dr. Girija

Yadav, Prof. Ranjan Prasad

Yadav, Shri Hukmadeo Narayan

Yadav, Shri Om Prakash

MR. CHAIRMAN: Subject to correction*, the result of the Division is:

Ayes: 17

Noes: 107

The motion was negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clause 6

Amendment of Section 37

Amendment made:

Page 2, for lines 18 to 20, substitute,-

'6. In Section 37 of the principal Act, the following

proviso shall be inserted, namely:-

"Provided that the Corporation shall endeavour that its funds are invested in the attractive schemes formulated by it to ensure increased bonus to policyholders while having least investment risk so as to enable the Corporation to play a greater role in economic enrichment of the masses while maintaining its position as a leader player in the market.".'. (7)

(Namo Narain Meena)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Amendment no.11 tabled by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta has become redundant.

The question is:

"That clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6

Amendment made:

Page 2, for lines 18 to 20, substitute,-

'6. In Section 37 of the principal Act, the following

proviso shall be inserted, namely:-

"Provided that the Corporation shall endeavour that its funds are invested in the attractive schemes formulated by it to ensure increased bonus to policyholders while having least investment risk so as to enable the Corporation to play a greater role in economic enrichment of the masses while maintaining its position as a leader player in the market.".'. (7)

(Namo Narain Meena)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Amendment No. 11 tabled by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta has become redundant.

he question is:

"That clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 7 Amendment of Section 44

Amendment made:

Page 2, for lines 21, substitute,-

7. In Section 44 of the principal Act, in clause

(b) the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:-

"Provided that nothing contained in this clause shall apply on and from the date on which the provisions contained in section 2E of the Insurance Act, 1938

shall cease to operate."..

(8)

(Shri Namo Narain Meena)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 7, as amended, stand part of the Bill." *The motion was adopted.*

Clause 7, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 8 Amendment of Section 48

Gladoc

Amendment made:

Page 2, for lines 22 and 23, substitute,-

- 8. In Section 48 of the principal Act, in sub-section (2),-
- (i) after clause (a), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-
- "(aa) the instruments which may be issued and the amount of working capital under sub-section (2) of section 5;";
 - (ii) in clause (cc), the words "and agents" occurring at both the places, shall be omitted.'. (9)

(Shri Namo Narain Meena)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill. Clause 9 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 Short Title and Commencement

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 2,
for "2009"

substitute "2011". (2)

(Shri Namo Narain Meena)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1,-

for "Sixtieth"

substitute "Sixty-second". (1)

(Shri Namo Narain Meena)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the hon. Minister may move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Sir, I beg to move:

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

15.57 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Lobbies may be opened now.