

[English]

- (x) **Conversion of Bandel-Katwa Section of Eastern railway into double line and its electrification**

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): Sir, people of all walks of life and of all political affiliations in the localities along Bandel-Katwa Railway line in the Eastern Railways have organised a determined movement on the longstanding demands of conversion of this line into double line and electrification of the route in order to enhance social mobility and economic development of the lakhs of people who inhabit this area.

The perpetual neglect of this line over the years has become unbearable to the people and they have come out in the street in a peaceful manner to attract the attention of the authorities.

I request the Minister of Railways to immediately call the representatives of the organisation leading the movement for a dialogue and take effective steps to improve the conditions of Bandel-Katwa Railway line within a time bound programme.

13.15 hrs.

BANKING, PUBLIC FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL (Contd.)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now take up further consideration of the Banking, Public Financial Institutions and Negotiable Instruments Laws (Amendment) Bill.

Shri C. Madhav Reddi.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): Mr. Chairman, I rise to make a few comments on the Bill amending thirteen Acts relating to the banks and other financial institutions and also the Negotiable Instruments Act.

This is a very important Bill, because it is not only amending the banking laws, but also the Negotiable Instruments Act. I would have liked a separate bill for amending the Negotiable Instruments Act instead of clubbing it with the Banking and Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill. One thing common in all of these twelve amendments to the banking laws is that the Government wants to fix a uniform tenure to the Directors of these institutions. The existing provisions relating to the tenure of Directors, the appointment of directors the terms and conditions and the eligibility of appointment etc., are contained in the Nationalised Banks Management Scheme, 1970 and 1980. After the nationalisation we have prepared a scheme under which the Directors whether they are official directors or non-official directors, whether they are employee directors, workmen and non-workmen employee directors, all these matters are covered under this scheme. There is also a provision in the Banking Regulation Act about the appointment of directors. And yet today we have different laws. The Directors are appointed under various states differently, under different conditions and for different tenures.

I can understand the anxiety of the Government in this regard. Of course, it is strictly in consonance with the recommendation made by the Estimates Committee, but my point is that for the last four years these banks are functioning with truncated boards. No non-official Directors had been appointed on these Boards and every time Government came forward with the plea that the regulations are under revision and once these are revised, the non-officials will be appointed.

So, what is the position of the banks today? The board of every bank is consisting of hardly four or five members consisting of officials, the Chairman and the Managing Director, the Executive Director - if there is one - then the representative of the Government from the Banking Division and the Reserve Bank of India. That is all.

And what is the position? With these truncated boards which bank is regularly