

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]

done, you will be a net beneficiary out of it, be rectified it. So, it is not very pleasant job for any Finance Minister to impose duty but we are taking that responsibility not with the intention to deprive the States of their legitimate share but to ensure the normal growth that they are having. In this connection, I would like to point out one thing that a very wrong analogy is being attempted. When I was talking of the sales tax that it increased from Rs. 123.9 crores to Rs. 6,310 crores, it is not that there has been a vertical expansion, there has been equally a horizontal expansion. That means, the number of commodities which were under sales-tax in the earlier years, has increased. But in the Central Excise areas you will appreciate that except item 68 which was introduced in 1975, and that too as a process of collecting census, from 1958-59 to 1975-76 if you analyse the growth of the Central Excise, you will find that the growth has been vertical, not horizontal, but the expansion of the revenue in sales-tax has been both vertical and horizontal.

Therefore, when somebody makes an attempt to compare that the Sales-tax growth has been much more than the excise duty, they will find that the excise duty growth has been vertical. I am not talking of additional excise duty. The additional excise duty growth has been a little more. The average of salestax growth rate was 16.73 per cent from 1958-59 to 1983-84. The average additional excise duty growth rate is 17.07 per cent from 1958-59 to 1983-84. But even in the basic excise duty the growth has been vertical. That means the subsequent Finance Ministers increase the rate of duties. I do not say that there has been no horizontal expansion. Some horizontal expansion has taken place, but it is much less compared to that of the sales-tax.

To conclude, Sir, my point is that there are no two opinions on the need to replace the sales-tax by additional excise duty. Everybody appreciates that the States' interests should be protected and there should be no loss so far as the States are concerned. On the other hand there should be some mechanism through which we can ensure a reasonable growth in their revenue, if these

items are taken out of the purview of the sales-tax and brought within the purview of the additional excise duty.

The third thing which we are trying to do is that we are working out a consensus. I hope with the goodwill, support and co-operation of the Members it would be possible for me. I am contemplating of circulating the proceedings of this discussion to the Chief Ministers beforehand so that they know the views at least of Shri Vajpayee and others so that they can also make up their mind to that extent.

19.02 hrs.

BANKING SERVICE COMMISSION BILL—Contd

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, face is not always the index of the mind. On the face of it this Bill looks as innocuous as our Hon. Finance Minister.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : I am not innocuous.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : You look like that. Of course, you are highly sophisticated, but you look innocuous.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : And I am most mischievous according to them ?

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : I will come to that also.

Sir, I was rather bewildered what was the hurry in bringing in such a piece of legislation at the fag end of the day and also at the fag-end of the Session ? There seems to be some reason behind it. I was trying to ponder over this that the Government had come to power in 1980 and the recommendation of the Banking Service Commission was there. There might be some problem in 1978, but since 1980 the Government did not find enough time to apply its mind to it. And now in a hurry it is coming with such a piece of legislation. So what I was thinking was "is it in the

background of a Statement made by the Confederation of the Officers Organisations of the Public Sector banks very recently or is it in the backdrop of some statements made and actions taken in the Western part and in some southern States of our country, by our Hon. Deputy Finance Minister, Shri Janardhana Poojary?" The Confederation of the Bank Officers Organisations had said that this Government is violating all the Reserve Bank norms in certain matters. I am not going into the question of how you have pulled up, ridiculed, harassed and made to apologise the officers because this is not the occasion to do that. My question is that it has been stated now that to streamline, to rationalise, to improve the quality of the recruitment for speedier recruitment as also for uniformity in the recruitment this has been taken up. And also there have been some deficiencies in the present recruitment Boards. Sir, who are now ruling these recruitment boards? I don't have enough knowledge, but my humble request to the Hon. Finance Minister will be to please lay on the Table of the House the names of the non-official Members of the Regional Recruitment Boards?

Sir, all Congress (I) men who were defeated and rejected by the people—I can give some names also, but I am not doing that—are doing all these things. There are so many complaints. I am requesting the hon. Finance Minister to lay on the Table the names of the Members of the Regional Recruitment Boards. The State Governments are not having any say with regard to the public sector banks. There are so many M.P.s., veteran national leaders with administrative experience, with experience of banking, they are not being taken on these Boards. In spite of that, now it has been discovered that there is some deficiency and to make up that deficiency, they are trying to centralise the recruitment by setting up the Banking Service Commission. I cannot have any objection to it. But although I do not subscribe to all the views of that particular person, let me quote the honourable former Deputy Prime Minister of this country. At the opening remarks on the occasion of the inauguration of the Banking Commission, he said:

"Possibly many of our all-India banks

including the State Bank of India suffer from this over-centralization. To cure this defect, we have to rely not on any measure of control, but on some form or reorganisation which would lead to greater decentralisation. We have to look carefully, therefore, into the areas of dispersion and area of operation of our banking system. We have to see whether our purpose can be achieved by creating local boards with adequate powers in the all India banks or whether the banks should be split up on a State-wise or zonal basis or whether they should be reconstituted into urban and rural wings."

After that much water has flown into the rivers and now this over-centralisation is taking place. I am not opposed to over-centralisation as such if it serves the very purpose for which banks have been nationalised. But in a country like ours there is so much of diversity, with so much of regional imbalance, with so much of diversity in the needs also, the tribal needs, the needs of the backward people, the needs of the rural people, the needs [of various sections in various ways, I have my own experience that an officer of a different region cannot communicate with the common people of that region. So, in the name of uniformity, in the name of quality, if you over-centralise this recruitment in such a manner, will it help our country? Will it serve the very purpose for which this banking sector was nationalised? I do not think so.

Sir, it has been seen that during all these days we have discussed that the public sector banks are all in doldrums, but we have no right to adequate information about the goings-on in these Boards. Several important parliamentary committees had recommended that a consolidated Report of the working of all the banks should be regularly laid on the Table. But we do not have that still now. We do not know how much money was written off by the public sector banks. We do not know the quantum of bad debts, we do not know the actual amount of fraud that had taken place. We are to read in the papers that while Rs. 2 crores

[Prof. Rup Chand Pal]

were involved through dacoities, more than Rs. 130 crores were involved by way of fraud. We have to read these things in the papers because we have no right to correct information. More than once, very important Financial Committees have recommended that the practice of withholding information regarding all these should be discontinued. 'Why withhold this very information regarding the banking system, regarding the performance, regarding the amount that is being written off?' But Government will say, 'Yes, yes. We have set up another Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. A. Ghosh, Deputy Governor of RBI'.

We are thinking over it. We know competent officers who want to give to the nation the appropriate information in national interest! The officer has to sign a bond that they are not supposed to divulge any such information regarding any customer or any borrower, although these people are holding the whole nation to ransom.

We have ourselves discussed in this very House that people at the very top have been involved in fraud. The case of Syndicate Bank is very well known. Instead of punishment, they were rewarded. When this Banking Service Commission is going to be set up, it should cover things properly. I was thinking, the urgency might be because this Government is using the banks—this nationalised sector for a narrow partisan end. Otherwise, how can you explain what has come out in the papers, that politicians are recommending names of rich people as beneficiaries in the name of giving money to the poorer sections. Very responsible quarters of the Government have been heard to make comments that about 75% of the money purported to reach the weaker sections have never reached them. The Government instead of taking the right measures to stop all these things have appointed their own men. I have one such experience.

As we are discussing Banking Service Commission, its composition, it has been said that such a person with knowledge of Banking will be appointed. Let me from my own experience tell you. I had the occa-

sion to ask about the Directors in the Board of certain public sector banks. There are representatives of the farmers. There are representatives of the employees, non-workmen, workmen, all these. I found that one representative of the farmers belonging to Calcutta. I wanted to know how can it be that the farmers representative lives in Calcutta. I was told that he is a gentleman farmer. I wanted to know whether he is first gentleman and then made a farmer or first a farmer and then became rich and then a gentleman and started living in Calcutta.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : May be a relation of the farmer, son of a farmer.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : No relation. This is the way things continue.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara) : Are only the rich persons gentlemen?

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : No, not a gentleman. We do not say that, because you remember...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : They are hard men.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : If you look at the staff pattern in the banks, as far as I could collect from the various reports and other documents that are made available, the staffing pattern in the nationalised sector, public sector banks, is very very top heavy and the proportion of officers to clerk is 1 : 1 : 1:2 in eight banks, 1:2 : 1:3 in seventeen banks, 1:3 : 1:4 in five banks. Here again it has been proposed that 25% will be direct recruitment of junior officers. Will it not go against the agreements in many banks which have already taken place between the employees organisations and the managements? Will you not just help the already top-heavy management?

And this is not my comment. Such a comment has been made by a very important financial committee, the Estimates Committee very recently.

Sir, I am not going to take more time. My last point is regarding the State Govern-

ments and their complaints. The State Governments have particular reason to complain regarding credit-deposit ratio, mobilisation of deposit etc. The money which is being mobilised in a particular region is going out of the area and that area remains as backward as before. The State Government is elected by the people. They are equally representatives. But they have no say in the matter of banks. The Central Government spread many false things daily for the consumption of the electorates who mostly do not believe them. The State Governments must have some say in matters of policy like this which they do not have now. A man belonging to Madras is being sent to the rural area, say in Punjab. Will it help? Will that officer be able to pick up that language quickly and communicate to the people, leave alone understanding their problems? In the name of uniformity, we are going to cause a great harm. Moreover, the State Governments are not consulted even in any important matters. At least, why is there not a representative from the State Governments by rotation from different regions? I am not speaking that West Bengal only should be represented. West Bengal is one of the States which is very much deprived. We have demanded a bank of our own and if that is made one of the issues during the elections, the hon. Finance Minister will have very hard days. (Interruptions) You are also going to have trouble. Don't be complacent.

I am concluding by saying that the composition of the Banking Service Commission should be made as impartial as possible. Competent people should be taken and not like the gentleman farmer of Calcutta as you have constituted in your Board of Directors, as you have constituted your present Recruitment Boards. Would you know the names? At least, one of them, so far as I remember, was a Member of this House, later on defeated and very recently joined their Party. If this is the way you want to use or rather misuse the public sector banks by doling out money to Partymen, by appointing your committed people and by trying to subjugate the Bank officers to your committed philosophy who will cover up all your misdeeds, that would not do. We expect that when the Banking Service Commission is set up, the Government

should look into all these things and instead of distributing political patronage to rejected people, they should select proper men and competent men who can deliver the goods.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No person corrects the papers. The machine corrects the papers.

Now Shri G.M. Banatwalla will speak.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : I will also speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will call you. If you want to speak, I will call you. Your name has not come from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. But if you want to speak, I will call you.

Now Shri G.M. Banatwalla will speak.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker. Even though the Banking Services Commission Bill was passed in 1975, the Government did not act on that for a period of nearly 17 to 18 months up to February, 1977 when the elections came and there was a change of Government.

With the change of the Government, the Banking Services Act, which had been passed in 1975 by this House, was repealed. The Bill to repeal the Banking Services Commission Act was passed by Lok Sabha but it was rejected by the Rajya Sabha. So, there was a joint sitting of the two Houses on May 16, 1978 and the Repeal Bill was passed. The then Minister of Finance, Shri H.M. Patel, said in the joint sitting that a system of recruitment of personnel in public sector based on the concept of a single centralised recruitment agency will make the recruitment process inefficient, unwieldy and cumbersome with serious consequences for the public sector banks. Accordingly, the then Government had thought it fit to repeal the Banking Services Commission Act and that was done as a result of the joint sitting of the House on May 16, 1978.

Now the Act has been resurrected or revived but with an important difference. This

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

difference lies in the fact that while recruitment to clerical cadre will continue to be made by the Recruitment Boards, the Commission will address itself to recruitment of officers. However, the underlying controversy as to whether the recruitment should be centralised or decentralised continues.

I have here to make a few suggestions.

A good feature of the present Bill is that as per Clause 22, the annual reports of the Banking Services Commission will be laid on the Table of the House. Therefore, the Members of the House will have an opportunity to examine these reports. This will undoubtedly increase the public accountability of the Commission in an area of such vital importance as appointments to the nationalised banks. Here I have a suggestion to make. At present there are Recruitment Boards recruiting thousands and thousands of personnel for the clerical cadre required for these banks. I suggest that these Boards should also become statutory. I suggest that the reports of these Boards should also be placed on the Table of the House in order to increase the accountability as far as the functioning of the Boards in the matter of recruitment is concerned.

Then, in the present Bill that is before the House, no assurance has been given to the effect that all available vacancies will be filled in time. That is very important because we have a bitter taste of the functioning of Commissions in this respect. I may be allowed here to refer to the functioning of the Union Public Service Commission in this particular respect. We find in the case of the UPSC that there are unfortunate delays and a lot of pending work. I may present a few statistics. In the year 1979-80, the number of posts for which recruitment action was pending from previous year was 1,717; the number of posts for which requisitions were received during the year was 2,618; the number of posts for which recruitment action was completed was 2,826, leaving 1,509 posts for which recruitment action was pending at the close of the year. Similar is the case with 1980-81. Similar is the position with respect to 1981-82. With respect to 1981-82 I may say that the number of posts

for which recruitment action was pending from previous year was 1,533, the number of posts for which requisitions were received during the year was 3,676 and the number of posts for which recruitment action was completed was 3,695. We, therefore, find that the UPSC was not in a position even to complete the recruitment action with respect to the number of posts for which requisitions were received, with the result that we had even greater arrears and the number of posts for which recruitment action was pending at the close of the year 1981-82 was 3,077. I have referred to the functioning of the UPSC in this respect because in the Statement of Objects we are told that the Banking Service Commission will be functioning like the Union Public Service Commission. I must, therefore, urge upon the Government and warn the Government to see that such a situation does not develop with respect to the Banking Service Commission and some assurance is given to this House, some regulations are laid down under the Bill, to see that the available vacancies are filled in time.

I need hardly reiterate that the recruitment policy should be rational, objective and impartial. Whether the recruitment is done by the Recruitment Boards or by the Banking Service Commission, I must emphasize that the recruitment policy should be such as would give chances to the weaker sections and the minorities.

If banking is genuinely to serve the diversified needs of the society, then the personnel must be drawn from all regions, from all language areas and from all minorities. The earlier speaker was pointing out to the need for a fair and balanced recruitment policy that will do justice to the rural areas also. It must do justice to all regions and it must do justice to all sections of the people. Unfortunately—and I may be permitted to say so—the recruitment to the nationalised banks has the same dismal story as is the case with regard to recruitment to government service.

The Muslim percentage to the total population is about 12. Let us look at the share of Muslims in the banking sector under Government control. A study of 1317 branches has revealed these figures, namely :

total number of employees—1,13,772 ; Muslims only 2479 which gives the share of Muslims as 2.18%. Since the majority of the jobs are in the categories of class III and IV, I would also like to give the break-up. Total number of employees in class III—61,151 and Muslims—1295, percentage being 2.12. The same story is with respect to Class IV. Total number of employees—26,305 and Muslims—587 and giving again a percentage of 2.13. These figures which I have given are figures given by the Joint Secretary of the Minorities Commission, Shri N.C. Saxena in one of his papers and circulated by the Minorities Commission.

When the policy with regard to recruitment, etc. is under consideration of the House, I must in all fairness emphasize upon the Government that something radical has to be done with respect to such a dismal picture that we have.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can also furnish, if you have got, how many people from the Muslim community appeared for the examination.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : They are there. I have referred to the paper—a very big paper. All the figures are there and the Government must also be having it.

Take the question of Reserve Bank of India. The position as on 30th June 1983 in the Central Board of Directors is that the total number is 19 while the Muslims are nil—zero. The Central Board of Directors—I am referring to. Where is the question of applications and all this ? I am coming to a simpler ground so that it may become more and more clear to one and all. Take the question of Members of the Local Boards of the Reserve Bank of India. You appoint them. What is the position ?

Total 19 Muslims 1.

Take the number of Principal Officers of the Reserve Bank of India as on 30-6-1983.

Total 27 Muslims 1.

In the case of managers—total 14, Muslims Nil. Let me make the matters still simpler

and clearer to understand that. Take the question of Board of Directors. Their appointments are made by the Government—I mean the Board of Directors of the nationalised banks. I am sorry to say that. When I scrutinised the reports of 1981, in the case Bank of Maharashtra, Indian Bank, Union Bank, Syndicate Bank, Dena Bank, United Bank of India, Central Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Andhra Bank, Corporation Bank, not a single Muslim Director is appointed to the Board. Are we so incompetent ? The Government is not in a position to find one person from amongst them. This is the situation which must be considered. These are the points which I am trying to place before the House not in a spirit of confrontation but with a view to seeing that the situation is made clearer and action is taken. In the case of Allahabad Bank, we do have one Muslim Director and, in the case of the United Commercial Bank too, we have two Muslim directors. There was a Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in the year 1983, that is, last year. I had placed the same point with respect to the directors before the House. The Prime Minister in her reply on 1st March 1983—it is there in our Lok Sabha debate in column 431—said :

“Some mention was made just now about memberships, directorships etc. of certain Boards. We are reviewing the matter and I agree that there are many aspects on which urgent measure should be taken. Some are being considered and other suggestions are welcome.”

When I heard her saying this, I was very happy. But, then, I knew what Mirza Ghalib said in Urdu. I quote :

तेरे वादे पर जिये तो यह जान झूठ जाना
कि खुशी से मर न जाते गर एतबार होता ।

”تیرے وعدے پر جیے تو یہ جان جھوٹ جانا
کہ خوشی سے مر نہ جاتے گرا اعتبار ہوتا“

A year has passed by. We hardly see any action being taken pursuant to an important assurance given on the floor of this House. There is still a lot to be said.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have done well. You must be satisfied.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Now that the Banking Service Commission Bill is before Parliament, before I conclude, I am wishing well this Commission and I may remind the House and the hon. Minister about a directive of the Prime Minister given on 11-5-1983 to the Union Ministries and to the States Chief Ministers and to the Administrators of all Union Territories with respect to measures that should be taken in order to see that a fair and just deal is given to the minorities.

With respect to the recruitment, the Prime Minister says in her directive that largescale employment opportunities are provided by the Railways, by the nationalised banks and the public sector enterprises. In these cases also, the concerned department should ensure that special consideration is given to recruitment from the minority communities.

Now, Sir, the Banking Service Commission Members will be appointed. It is necessary that, in the composition of the Commission, due representation is given to the Muslims and other minorities also. Again, it was the Prime Minister who, in her directive of May 11, 1983, had said :

"The composition of Selection Committees should be representative."

I hope that all these assurances will not remain on mere paper but that due action will be taken, remedial and corrective action will be taken to see that our services are representative in character so that it may meet the diversified needs of our society.

With these words I conclude.

श्री मूल चन्द डागा (पाली) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस प्रकार के इम्पौटेंट लेजिस्लेशन पर जिस प्रकार से यहां पर चर्चा हो रही है, मैं व्यक्तिगत रूप से उसका समर्थन नहीं कर सकता। ऐसे बिल को फंग एंड आफ दि डे पर लाया जाता है और गवर्नमेंट कहती है कि इसे पास कर दिया जाए। यह पास हो जाएगा, लेकिन ईमानदारी की बात यह है कि इस तरह हम अपनी आत्मा और संवि-

धान के साथ न्याय नहीं करते। यह एक बहुत इम्पौटेंट पीस आफ लेजिस्लेशन है।

भारत की प्रधान मंत्री, श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी, ने बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण करते हुए जो उद्देश्य बताए थे, जहां तक बैंकों द्वारा दी गई सेवा का सम्बन्ध है, वे पूरे नहीं हुए हैं। देश के किसी भी हिस्से में चले जाइए, आपको मालूम होगा कि बैंकों के द्वारा जनता की सेवा वफादारी, ईमानदारी और नेकनीयती से नहीं हो रही है। आज बैंक सेवाओं में निष्ठा और ईमानदारी नहीं है।

आज ब्लैक मनी पैदा होने का एक कारण बैंक हैं। अखबारों में लाखों करोड़ों रुपए के जिस ड्राफ्ट स्कैंडल के समाचार आए हैं, उन्हें बड़े-बड़े बैंकों के मैनेजर करवाते हैं।

इस बिल के बारे में बहुत चर्चा हुई थी और मैंने भी स्टेटमेंट दिए थे। इस बिल के अनुसार 25 परसेंट डायरेक्ट रेकूटमेंट होगा। जो लोग डायरेक्ट रेकूटमेंट के माध्यम से आएंगे, वे पच्चीस तीस के अनुभव वाले अफसरों के बराबर हो जाएंगे। पहले पे कमीशन ने कहा था कि पुराने लोगों के एक्सपीरियंस से लाभ उठाना चाहिए। यह सही है कि डायरेक्ट रेकूटमेंट से कुछ एक्सट्राडिनरी इनटे-लिजेंस वाले और आनेस्ट आदमी आ जाते हैं। लेकिन आज सर्विसिज में क्या हो रहा है ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I remember that the first Pay Commission recommended 50% of the posts from among the ranks ; and 50% by direct recruitment. I am saying this for your information.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : That is true, Sir. What is happening is this. This Bill says that it will depend upon rules and regulations. Rules and Regulations are not before the House. They will come afterwards. All these things depend upon rules and regulations. This is the skeleton of the whole thing.

If you examine those rules and regulations you can form your opinion how the recruitment will be done.

जब आपके सामने रूलज एंड रेगुलेशन नहीं हैं, तब आप रेक्यूटमेंट के तरीके को नहीं जान सकते। कमिटी आन सवाडिनेंट लेजिस्लेशन के एग्जामिन करने से पहले ही लॉ बन जाता है। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह बिल जो आपने बनाया है इसमें आपने कहा है :

"by selection, by examination or by both"

तो आपका सेलेक्शन क्या होगा ?

Whether by examination or whether by selection or by both ?

इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ आप देखें :

"(3) For the purpose of holding an inquiry under subsection (2), the Central Government may, by order, appoint, as an Inquiry Officer, a person who is holding or has held the office of a Judge of the Supreme Court or of any High Court."

Then he says :

"The Commission may, in such manner and subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed, constitute one or more committees consisting wholly of its members or partly of its members and partly of other persons and delegate to any committee so constituted such of the functions and powers of the Commission as may be specified in the rules made by the Central Government :"

Now, the words are : "other persons". Clause 7 says 'other persons'. Now, who will be the other persons ? What will be those persons and what will be their qualifications ? The powers will be delegated to that Committee. What powers are you going to delegate them ?

इस बिल में आपने एक बात और लिखी है। आप कहते हैं :

"There will be a Board consisting of 8 Members out of which 4 will be of persons

with ability, integrity and character. While one will be belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe. Why only one will be from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe ?

हम बार-बार कहते हैं कि गरीबी रेखा के जो नीचे हैं उनको आप मदद दीजिए लेकिन क्या कोई इस बात को कहने वाला है कि सेलेक्शन बोर्ड में अनुसूचित जाति के लोगों को ज्यादा रखा जाए ? अनुसूचित जाति वालों के लिए जो 28 परसेन्ट का कोटा नियत किया गया है वह भी पूरा नहीं हो रहा है। बैंकों में ज्यादातर काम जो होता है वह क्लर्क, यू० डी० सी० और एल० डी० सी० ही करते हैं। इसलिए मैं तो यही चाहूंगा कि मन्त्री महोदय इस बिल को सेलेक्ट कमिटी के पास भेज दें, चाहे थोड़े दिनों के लिए ही सही, ताकि वहां पर इस पर विचार विमर्श हो सके। मैं जानता हूँ मिनिस्टर फार पार्लमेंटरी एफेयर्स इसके लिए एग्रीएबल नहीं होंगे। लेकिन इस बिल में सारे क्लर्कज में रूलज एंड रेगुलेशंस पर ही डेपेन्ड किया गया है। यह बिल सेल्फ कन्टेन्ड नहीं है। इस बिल को आप पढ़ेंगे तो देखेंगे कि किस तरह से इसको इम्प्लीमेंट किया जायेगा।

25 परसेन्ट रेक्यूटमेंट की बात मैंने आपसे कही है लेकिन आप बतायें कि डायरेक्ट रेक्यूटमेंट का तरीका क्या होगा ?

How will this be implemented ? What will be the procedure ? Tell us whether it will be by selection or whether it will be by examination or both. How will the percentage of 25 be done through direct recruitment ?

किस तरह से आप रखेंगे, यह क्लियर नहीं है। यह जो पावर आपने ली है उससे मैं सहमत नहीं हूँ। आप स्पेसिफिक बताइये ; क्या तरीका रहेगा। जहां तक रेक्यूटमेंट का सवाल है, एक प्रश्न और पैदा होता है कि जो आफिसर्स एप्वाइन्ट होंगे उनके लिए आपने कहा है कि इक्वायरी करेंगे लेकिन कितना लम्बा प्रोसीजर है इक्वायरी का।

Now, who will be the Enquiry Officer—whether the Supreme Court Judge or a High Court Judge ?

[श्री मूल चन्द डागा]

रिपोर्ट आने से पहले ही आप उसको ससपेंड कर देंगे। मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूँ कि रिपोर्ट कब तक आ जाएगी और कब तक सम्मिट होगी? क्या आप यह बता सकते हैं कि आज कितने कर्मचारी ससपेंडेड हैं? कहीं आप ऐसा कानून भी बता सकते हैं कि जो बैंक एम्प्लायज काम नहीं करते हैं, इनएफिशियेंट हैं, डिआनैस्ट हैं, उनको आप कितने समय में निकाल सकते हैं? इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस बिल पर बहुत ही गहराई से विचार करना चाहिए। आप जो इस बिल को बहुत जल्दी से पास करा रहे हैं यह कोई न्यायसंगत बात नहीं है।

इतना कहते हुए मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ।

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Jaipur) : At the very outset, I would like to register my protest against the manner in which this piece of legislation is being rushed through. Sir, this is a very important piece of legislation and it would have been better if more time were made available to the hon. members to examine the provisions of this Bill. Particularly in the background that such a law was passed as back as in 1975 and particularly because such a law was repealed in 1978, it was all the more necessary for this Government to refer this Bill to a Select Committee, so that the provisions of this Bill are examined in detail and whatever objections are being raised now by hon. members from all sections of the House could have been dealt with more effectively in that Select Committee. I am personally of the opinion that any new piece of legislation, which is important and which is initiated by Government, whether it is this Banking Service Commission Bill or another important legislative piece, should invariably be referred to a Select Committee. The Select Committee may be asked to examine the provisions of the Bill and submit its report within six months, in case there is an urgency.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : On the contrary, this Bill was introduced yesterday and is being discussed today.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : So, Sir, you would kindly appreciate that such an important measure which has been introduced yesterday is being passed today at this late hour when it is going to be 8 P.M. with this attendance in the House. I think the Government are not doing justice to this House and this is bringing down the prestige of this House in the eyes of the general public, because prohibiting or barring the members from a fruitful and purposeful debate on such important measures, is not going to enhance the prestige of the House. Now with this strong protest over the hasty manner in which the Government are piloting this Bill, with their road-roller majority, I say I am at one with Shri Moolchand Daga and many others in feeling that the process adopted by the House is not fair.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There are no other Members. Otherwise, we would have called and given a chance to every Member.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : Introducing the Bill yesterday and passing it today at 8 PM. What is it, Sir? Unless, of course, you have some very extra-ordinary situation. I do not find any unusual or extra-ordinary situation so far as this particular Bill is concerned. Heavens are not going to fall down if the Bill is to be passed in the next Session of the Parliament. After all, what is going to happen? On the other hand, if the Government are feeling so much about it, they could have brought the Bill much earlier and things could have been settled.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : It will take another six months even to frame the rules and regulations and the Bill cannot come into force.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : I still have some apprehensions on this score. The Bill was passed in 1975 and kept pending for practically three years. It was not implemented because no rules were framed and it was not put into action. So, a law passed in 1975 could not be implemented till 1977, including the two years of Emergency, when everything could be done without much difficulty. So, this particular Bill also—if passed into law and if Parliament is

dissolved within 3, 4 or 6 months and we go in for elections,—will meet the same fate.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Come to the subject.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : Is it not part of the subject ? if the Government is passing a Bill which they do not intend to implement ? Why did they not implement the law passed in 1975 ? Why was the time of the House wasted in 1975 ? Is the Government not answerable for that ?

We have seen the fate of Railway Service Commissions in this country. And this House is very well aware as to how much bungling has taken place in the Railway Service Commissions. The matter was raised on the floor of Parliament also, and the Chairman and many other members of the Railway Service Commission in Uttar Pradesh had to be packed. There was so much of corruption in these Service Commissions, in the selection for Government posts and all that.

In that particular background, with our experience with the Railway Service Commissions, with our experience with various Public Service Commissions in various States, what are we to do ? I do not want to say whether it was in Punjab or Haryana, where the matter was taken to the High Court of Chandigarh, how the matters were being dealt with in that particular State—Mr. Sultanpuri knows much better about it. With all that experience, it was all the more necessary for the Government to refer this Bill to a Select Committee, have serious deliberations in the Committee, and come with certain definite conclusions before this House.

Now everything has been left to the rules. Whatever the Government is going to prescribe, are going to be in the rules, in the matter of vacancies, percentage of vacancies and the category of vacancies and posts. Government is taken the power to prescribe them in the rules. That is also not provided in the law. It is a substantive provision : what type of vacancies you are going to fill up under this particular law. That should have been provided for in the Bill itself ; but they have taken the power

under Clause 31, sub-clause (d). I will read it :

“the category of persons whom any vacancy or percentage of vacancies in a public sector bank may be reserved by the Central Government ;”

This power of reservation, in what category, what number, what percentage, has been reserved by the Government ; and it will be specified in the rules.

This is going beyond the powers of delegated legislation. The hon. Minister must be very well aware about the functioning of the subordinate Staff Selection Commission, and how many vacancies remain pending. I distinctly remember the position when I was the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance. Even when I was the Chairman of Public Accounts Committee of Parliament, we toured the whole country ; and wherever we enquired about the vacancies in a particular Collectorate, the one answer given at all places was : “We have not received the number of candidates selected by the Staff Selection Commission. So, what can we do ?” Normally, 25% to 40% vacancies are there in Customs and Excise Collectorates throughout the country, because candidates are not made available by the Staff Selection Commission. How is the Government going to meet this particular situation ?

Now about this banking sector, this is the second point. The third point is their occupying a very pivotal role in our total economy. And naturally, there is a decline. I do not know. The reasons are many. There is a perceptible decline in the functioning of these nationalized banks. I need not quote other figures. I need not dwell upon the number of thefts, bad debts, outstanding arrears or frauds being committed in the banks. But I would draw the attention of this House to a report by Shri Era Sezhiyan, a Member of the other House with regard to nationalized banks—State Bank of India and its associate banks—which was presented to Rajya Sabha on 26th April 1984, hardly two weeks before ; and the facts given in this particular report are alarming. Of all the branches of the various banks throughout the country, there are thousands of branches where the accounts

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have not yet been reconciled ; and the total amount where reconciliation has not been done so far for several years, comes to double the amount of the total Central Budget, which means round about Rs. 84,000 crores.

What is the position in the Nationalized Banks ? You are visiting banks. I have appreciated you. It was published in the Southern India Press and I have received letters of protest why did you praise Mr. Poojary on the Floor of Parliament. But I did that and I can do it even now. But you are answerable to the nation as to how you are conducting the affairs of the Nationalised Banks.

The Reserve Bank which was an apex body of monitoring in this country was exercising all its control while regulating the nationalised banking sector and other banking companies in this country. But, unfortunately, Reserve Bank has been reduced to a department by this government ; and the Reserve Bank has no autonomy left with it, so far as regulation of the economy in this country is concerned. They are more or less extended arms of the North Block and they are only functioning as a department of this government. How is it that the Reserve Bank recommends to you for the extension of the service of two Chairmen of particular Nationalised Banks and the Finance Ministry agrees to give extension only to one for three years and to the other man only for one month ? Is it not ridiculous to grant extension to the Chairman of a Nationalised Bank only for one month ? Don't give extension ? But if you want to give an extension do it for a year or two and the extension that you have granted to the other gentleman of the Nationalised Bank, what was the report of the RB against him ? The Deputy Governor in that particular case of S.L. group of companies to whom nearly Rs. 60 crores were advanced against inaccurate security in London where the whole money is going down the drain. What happened to the Sethia Group ? It is the Central Bank of India's Manager there in London who had advanced that money against inaccurate security. The auditor in London brought it to the notice of the

management and the authority of the Central Bank of India ; look here this is the state of affairs in the London Branch ; and the RB asked for the extension of the Chairman of the Central Bank of India. It is the same Chairman of the Central Bank of India, Mr. Sonalkar to whom you have given an extension for three years. Why for ? People were talking so many things about it outside. You have fixed a premium for getting extension in this nationalised sector. You are doing a wonderful research. You have found out a new avenue of resource mobilization. What is this extension to one man for three years against whom there is a charge ; he is primarily responsible being the Chief Executive of the Central Bank of India for the whole mess that was done in London Branch. Who was the Manager Incharge of London Branch ? Mr. Patonkar. After retirement, what did he do ? He was employed by the same Sethia. Have you made any provision that any officer of a bank who will be selected or any member of the Public Banking Service Commission or the Chairman will not seek re-appointment or employment under any such Sethia or big business house ? You have not prohibited that ; you have simply said, they will not seek re-employment under the Central or the State Government, etc.

The Chairman or a senior officer or an Assistant General Manager or a General Manager of a Nationalised Bank can oblige a large industrial house and can seek re-employment under him. Under the Income Tax Law, there is a provision that the Commissioner of Income Tax or any Gazetted Officer will not seek re-employment or employment at least for two years under any assessee. Why have you not provided that here ? Any petty Income Tax Officer is able to oblige an assessee maybe some lakhs of rupees. But, here the Assistant General Manager or the General Manager or the Chairman of a particular bank or a member, if he is interested, in that case, no provision exists on that behalf. What are you going to do with that ? You should have made some provision. As a matter of fact, this particular Bill should have provided an opportunity to the members of this House to discuss in detail the mal-functioning of the nationalised banking sector in this country.

I am sorry to say the aspirations and the ambitions that the people had in 1969 when these banks were nationalised have been belied. This is the general feeling in the whole House that the banking sector has completely failed so far as the country's economy and the country's interest is concerned. Absolutely, the banks have become a place for people to make money, to misappropriate money, to make defaults, to commit frauds, to commit thefts and what not. How is the Government going to explain the situation where in a concern like banks the accounts are not reconciled for years? And the amounts involved run into Rs. 84,000 crores, all over the country and in all the branches. Here is a report. It is a harsh indictment of this Government so far as the conducting of the affairs of the nationalised banks of the country is concerned which was presented to the other House and this particular report has been brought out by—not the Public Accounts Committee, or the Committee on Public Undertakings, but by—the Committee for Papers Laid on the Table of the House, whereby all the papers which were laid on the Table pertaining to the nationalised banks were examined by that Committee and this particular report has been brought out. It is a very important report, very revealing report. I compliment the Chairman and the Members of that particular committee. I wish the hon. Deputy Finance Minister says something about the state of affairs so far as the balancing of the accounts is concerned, whether the figures that I have quoted, the total branches involved in the country so far as the balancing of the accounts runs into thousands, all particulars have been given bank-wise, so far as the total amount involved all over the country and all the branches is concerned, that comes to round about Rs. 84,000 crores which is double the amount of the total budget of the Government of India for 1984-85.

I would not take much of the time of the House, I am concluding. I would like to know whether you have made provision with regard to the proposed service commission for people having 10 years experience, that is 50 per cent of the members will have 10 years' experience in any particular banking industry. What about the rest of the 50 per cent? Will they be some sort of ex-

perts? What will be their qualifications? Will they be new, fresh people or retired persons, or will they be defeated politicians, what type of people as you envisage and visualise for appointing as members of the public service commission? You have mentioned a tenure of five years or 65 years of age whichever is less. Perhaps in the age group of 60 or 59 people will be appointed as Chairman or members of the Commission. Therefore, is it going to be a sanctuary for those retired people who want to be favoured by being appointed as members of this service commission? Or will it be filled by retired persons, IAS or some sort of such people, as your nominated directors of various public sector companies in this country and on various private corporate bodies in this country, where you have the power to nominate your directors either of the financial institutions or for the Government, and what has been their role? I do not comment here, the power is there. But how will you be able to keep a vigil or a close watch on the functioning of the corporate sectors? This affects the entire economy in this country and this is one good reason that you are appointing government directors to this service commission. For working on those very companies where the Government has acquired the powers or the financial institutions have acquired the powers to nominate directors on their behalf but how malfunctioning has been there, excepting—excepting I am saying—the use of these corporate bodies, they are discharging no other function. I am saying this is more important, because this banking industry is one area where the jurisdiction of the Comptroller and Auditor General is not there.

The banking sector which commands roundabout Rs. 70,000 crores and upon whose performance the whole development of our economy depends, is outside the jurisdiction of C and AG and resultantly being outside the jurisdiction of any financial committees of Parliament. So, Parliament excepting seeing these reports which you lay on the Table of the House, has no occasion and opportunity to scrutinise in depth the functioning of these nationalised banks. So, the Government must consider the question of appointing auditors to these nationalised banks, get their accounts audited by the C and AG's office and submit this nationalised

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banking sector to a closer scrutiny by a committee of Parliament, if not PU or PAC, let Parliament have another committee to examine in detail and scrutinise in depth and to have an insight into the functioning of this nationalised sector and to monitor the working of the nationalised banking sector only.

So far as the provisions otherwise are concerned or the setting of a Service Commission is concerned, I am not opposing them. That is a welcome step. But the way in which it is being brought before the House and the way in which it is being rushed through without a purposeful and fruitful debate in this House, I am sorry to say that the provisions in the Bill are not to my satisfaction. More time could have been made available to the hon. Members of this House so that we would have ample opportunity to move our amendments and to discuss more in detail such an important piece of legislation by discussing each and every clause and the deterioration particularly of the customer services in the banking sector, about which the hon. Deputy Finance Minister is also very much worried. I think, if there can be unanimity on one particular point of the total nationalised sector of banks it is this that the customer services have deteriorated very fast and nobody bothers about the customer services so far as the nationalised banking sector is concerned. You get a better service in private banks. That is why, people prefer to have their accounts in the private sector banks, not because they believe in that philosophy but because they get a better service in a private bank than in a nationalised bank.

With these words, I once again request the Government to consider the suggestion whether this particular Bill has to be passed urgently. There is no emergency. There is no Punjab like situation whereby the Government wants to have power and the NSA is to be amended. After all, it is providing for setting up a Service Commission for the recruitment of officers to various nationalised banks. That particular work is not going to suffer because that work is still being carried on by various

regional recruitment boards. It will be carried on by another six months. In the meantime, you refer this Bill to a select committee. You bring a motion yourself. Within six months that particular Committee can examine the provisions in detail and come forward with a detailed report about the various provisions in the Bill, in the next session of Parliament. Then you can pass this Bill in the next monsoon session of the House.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I always value the constructive criticism of the Members from the Opposition, particularly the hon. Members like Mr. Satish Agarwal and Mr. Banatwalla.

First, I will deal with the criticism made by Shri Agarwal. He has referred to the Era Sezhiyan Committee's Report. He has also mentioned that he has been criticised for saying some good words about me. For the information of the House and also Shri Agarwal I can venture to say that in the course of the surprise visits, first I came across about the non-reconciliation of inter-branch accounts. I have pointed out not only inside the House but also outside the House that the inter-branch reconciliation has been pending since 1972. Before the submission of this Report by Era Sezhiyan Committee, about 2 years back I placed these facts before the House and afterwards, in order to take remedial measures, we have convened the meeting of the Chief Executives. These things have been placed before the meeting of the Chief Executives. We are at it and some improvement has been shown. The bank employees are in a position to reconcile without resorting to overtime. This has been made clear by bringing inter-branch reconciliation in some of the branches. But what has been the result of this? When I brought this to the notice of the House and even outside the House to the nation, I was criticised by all. About two days back I have seen another attack from the Chief Minister of one of the States of this country saying that I am having a partisan view and I am not showing any respect to the Legislators, that is, MLAs in the States. Before proceeding further I want to make it clear on the floor of the House as to what happened. Whenever I used to go to my constituency, Opposition Legislators used

to come to me and say that there is deterioration in the customer services of the banks and that better service is not coming forth from the banks. When I go to the function and say to the bank people without any fear that there is a complaint throughout the country that the customer service has gone down and that they have to give better service to the people of this country, the very same people get up and say what Poojary is saying is wrong and the bank people are giving better service. Should I tolerate this type of hypocrisy, this type of double talk? Whenever they come I am making them to make their points. But at one place there was no time. Sometime I do feel that when I make them to speak, they speak in favour of these employees. I do not say that the entire banking sector is very bad and all the people are not giving better service. Some people are there, about 20 per cent to 30 per cent are bad, that is my assessment. When I came to the conclusion that to a certain extent these should be stopped. I have not been allowing some of the persons to speak, I do agree. I have got highest regards for the Legislators, for the Members of Parliament but what the nation today requires some unpleasant action, should we allow this to continue? This is what is happening. You have been telling that better service should flow, we are giving value to your criticism, I pay surprise visits and I talk to them. But when we are taking action, it is said that we are torturing them. One Member has just now said that we are torturing them. What torture have we done? Is it not the duty of the Government to monitor the things? You are taking pains, you are making study and after making study, you are coming before the House and are giving some suggestions and when we are doing it seriously, if this is the reward we are to get, then how can we function? We have to see that.

In regard to the point made by Shri Banatwalla on the reservations for the minorities, I fully agree with him. The Government is keen that representation to the minorities should be given. We have been giving these representations in the past and even in future also in every Banking Service Recruitment Board minorities' reservation will be kept in view.

Prof. Rup Chand Pal has stated that the

names of non-official Members of the Recruitment Board should be placed on the Table of the House. I assure him that it will be done.

About the raising of the reservation to the extent of 25 per cent in the direct recruitments, he has stated that it is going against the agreement between the Management and the Staff. Sir, already there is reservation in the direct recruitment ranging between 15 to 20 per cent and the increase by five per cent is not going to violate the agreement much. If the Hon. Member cooperates, there will not be much opposition from the staff side also.

Shri Banatwalla has stated that the recruitment policy should be rational, impartial and objective. These suggestions will be taken note of and for that purpose the main objective of having such a centralised commission is to have a selection process more objective, more independent and more impartial. In order to have a standard of efficiency only such a Commission is going to be set up.

He has further stated that all regions and all sections of minorities should be represented in the Commission. Government may decide to have one Member representing the minority community. It is in addition to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes representation.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Not only in the Selection Committee, I was asking that there should be representation in the services also.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I am also taking personal interest so far as the question of giving representation to the minorities is concerned. You will see that in future whenever there is appointment to the Banks, attempt will be to have representation to the minority communities.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The point that in a family where nobody is employed, at least one from that family should be appointed. This point should also be considered.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : That will be examined. During the discussion I also put forward the same proposal. Such a submission was made by Shri Daga also. This suggestion will be examined.

Even Mr. Banatwalla also said...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Many of the people in the rural areas will get employment if that is followed.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : If one of the members of the family is appointed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, one of the members of the family, if he or she is qualified.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : That is a direction from the Chair which has to be followed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, no. It is a suggestion. I cannot give any direction. I am a Deputy-Speaker and I am also a Member of Parliament. I would have said this even otherwise.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : What I said is that so far as representation to be given to one member in each family belonging to weaker sections is concerned, it will be examined and considered.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Let the matter go to the Assurances Committee. Don't amend like this.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Hon. Member, Shri Banatwalla, stated that there is delay in the recruitment of officers and he has quoted from the UPSC report also. In order to have efficient and speedier process, we have taken over the officers' recruitment process from the Banking Service Recruitment Board. In fact this recruitment was left with the Banking Service Board and so far as the recruitment of the officers is concerned, that has been taken away in order to have a speedier process, and I can assure the hon. Members also that so far as the delay is concerned, we will try to avoid the delay and instructions will be given to avoid the delay.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : What is

the approximate work load of this Commission ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : So far the Banking Service Recruitment Board had recruited about 3000 to 4000 officers per year.

Mr. Shamanna has stated that promotion and other things should not be automatic and it should be on merit and subject to reservation. He has made that suggestion and we will also take into consideration the suggestion made by Mr. Shamanna.

As I stated, I will be very brief and I can assure the hon. Members that so far as the Government is concerned, it shares the concern expressed by the hon. Members. We will try to give better service to the people of this country and it will flow from the banking sector. But at the same time I require the cooperation of the Opposition Members also, including the Members from CPI(M) and CPI parties. Some of the militant Unions are controlled by CPI(M) and CPI people. *(Interruptions)*

One of the hon. Members from the Opposition has stated that the Government should not have any grievance so far as their employment is concerned, but so far as their discipline is concerned, the Government should be very firm. I agree with the hon. Member, Shri T.R. Shamanna and I also agree with the hon. Member, Shri Satish Agarwal that there should be discipline. Without discipline nothing could move in this sector.

With this assurance I conclude my speech.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : I have made a certain very important point that in the matter of all-India Services in the States, the cadre posts are discussed with the Chief Secretary and the needs of particular States are given, but in such a vital economic sector the State Governments know the needs of the rural areas and the urban areas and the number of branches to be opened and in a situation where too much of regional imbalance in the banking sector exists, I had suggested that the State Governments or the regions by rotation can be given adequate representation in the

Banking Service Commission so that the needs of officers and all such things can be discussed also. I raised this question that sometimes if you recruit some one from the South and post him to Punjab....

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Think of the national integration.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : That is good. But from my own experience I can say that if a man who cannot understand the language of a particular region, how can he understand the needs of the particular people ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Even as per the existing system, it is done on an All India basis. In order to avoid all these things we can have postings made regionwise. Now the power has been taken by this Commission. When these people will be recruited on an All India basis, in order to avoid duplication, we have come up with the centralised Commission. As I have stated, our people, particularly graduates—educated people used to appear before seven, eight or ten recruitment Boards. You can understand the expenditure involved also. They have to pay the entry fee, admission fee and all these things. This is being avoided. There will be one centralised Commission. If some officers are recruited, we can think of posting those people regionwise. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission for the recruitment and selection of officers for appointment to services and posts in public sector banks and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The ques-

tion is :

"That Clauses 2 to 34 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 34 were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

20.32 hrs.

DELHI RENT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Delhi Rent Control Act, 1958, be taken into consideration."

The Delhi Rent Control Act, 1958 provides for the control of rents and evictions and of rates of hotels and lodging houses,