

As far as other matters are concerned regarding clause 21, sub-clause (2), it reads:

"The Small Industries Bank may, at any time establish any fund as part of the Small Industries Development Assistance Fund for such purpose or purposes as may be approved by the Central Government..."

That means it is not a new fund which is being established, but a portion of the Small Industries Development Assistance Fund can be allocated if in the opinion of the authorities mentioned in clause 21, sub-clause (2) it is so necessary for any specific purpose. I don't think anybody will object.

Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:
The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS (NATIONALISATION) AMENDMENT BILL, 1989

THE MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
EDUARDO FALEIRO): Madam,
I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The question was proposed.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri V. Narayanasamy) in the Chair.]

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH
(Gujarat): Mr. Vice-Chairman,
Sir, I rise to support the Gene-

Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 1989.

Sir, the general insurance industry is one of the profit making enterprises in the public sector with a sizeable contribution to socially oriented schemes. As the bulk of the population of the country lives in rural areas, the special target area for concentrated action on the part of the general insurance business must also be directed towards villages. The emphasis so far given on urban areas with regard to general insurance may now be shifted to rural areas. It would be interesting to know if the hon. Minister can give me the statistics on the percentage of business of the General Insurance Corporation in urban areas and what it is at present in rural areas. If these statistics are known, probably the Government may be able to fix its attention on the rural areas also where general insurance is needed.

Sir, the present ceiling of Rs. 75 crores as authorised capital is now considered inadequate with the growing population and expanding business. Therefore, through this Bill it is sought to be raised to Rs. 250 crores. It is an increase of Rs. 175 crores. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is adequate keeping in view the anticipated growth of the income and profit of the Corporation in the next ten years. If we see the growth in the last ten years I think the capital base could have still been increased without coming to the House again because in the next ten years the growth would be tremendous as far as the general insurance business is concerned I think the hon. Minister may consider that the authorised capital may be raised to

[Shri Eduardo Faleiro]

take a realistic view of the situation.

Sir, the GIC is one of the highest tax-payers in the country. The profit before tax for 1987 was Rs. 400 crores and for 1988-89 for 15 months it is expected to be around Rs. 575 crores. The income-tax paid by the corporation in 1987 was Rs. 171 crores and in 1988-89 it is expected to be Rs. 270 crores. Therefore, a further increase in the authorised capital would have given further impetus to the activities of the corporation and that is why I pleaded that the capital could have still been raised. This is another reason for doing so. Sir, the coverage of the GIC has also to be increased so that it could serve a large number of poor and unorganised people in this country. It is this section of the people that the corporation has to look after because they are the people who require insurance cover. Schemes like insurance cover for sweepers and coolies in the railway stations are examples of the unorganised labour which the corporation has already undertaken. But these schemes are not known to the people for whom they are intended and the beneficiaries still do not know the advantages of such schemes. Therefore, my suggestion is that the corporation should involve the people's representatives and the beneficiaries and these popular schemes should be further expanded and the people should know about such schemes of the General Insurance Corporation.

Sir, one of the most important problems relating to insurance is the payment of compensation and insurance claim particularly during natural calamities and during the communal and other riots. Sir,

it has been my observation and concern that these claims are not cleared within a specific period of time. I would plead with the Government and with the hon. Minister that special instructions should be given to the GIC that such schemes should be settled in a stipulated time.

Sir, another important thing for the corporation is to seek the co-operation of registered trade union bodies to implement some of the progressive measures implemented by the General Insurance Corporation. Sir, the trade union in the organised sector could play a pivotal role in the implementation of the schemes meant for poorer sections and industrial labourers. Today, what is happening is that the General Insurance Corporation is implementing on its own and the trade union bodies are not taken into confidence and, therefore, they lack the drive and the initiative which should have been the case.

Sir, one of the charges against the General Insurance Corporation is that it collects more and disburses less. In this connection I would like to know from the hon. Minister what has been the claim-settlement ratio and whether it compares well with the business of the Corporation.

Sir, another important issue at stake is the formation of a comprehensive crop insurance scheme. The present scheme should be expanded to some more crops and the outstanding payments under the crop insurance scheme should be made immediately. Sir, this is a burning issue in the State of Gujarat where Rs. 110 crores are yet to be paid by GIC and this is not only a burning issue but it is also a political issue. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister

that the disbursal under the crop insurance scheme particularly in the States like Maharashtra and Gujarat should be made immediately so that we can avoid agitations particularly from the farming community.

There has been a demand for a separate corporation for group insurance scheme. There was a conference held recently and many speakers from several States and the representatives of the State Governments also mentioned that a separate corporation should be carved out particularly for Group Insurance Scheme, Sir, I also fully endorse this suggestion and would like to know from the Government whether this is being considered in the interest of poor and economically weaker sections who opt for such schemes. Sir, I appreciate the corporation's efforts in implementing some very important social security schemes like the personal accident insurance cover for poor families. At present, a compensation of Rs. 3,000 is paid to poor families with an annual income of Rs. 7200 in the event of accidental death of the earning member. I suggest that the income limit should be raised to Rs. 10,000 and compensation should be increased to Rs. 5,000. I am drawing an analogy because the compensation given to riot affected victims has also been raised recently and certain other parameters for this compensation have also been changed by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Of course, these are the suggestions given to the State Governments and most of the State Governments have accepted them. Therefore, the same kind of parameters should be utilised for compensation given to poor families under this accidental cover scheme and therefore I strongly plead that not only the compensation should be raised but

also the income limit from Rs. 7,200 to Rs. 10,000. Sir, this will also help them. While the prices are also rising of building materials and of other things like for instance if a hut is destroyed in a fire, you will give Rs. 3,000 but now with the rising prices of building materials and other components, the hut is going to cost more and therefore, I plead that the compensation should also be more. Sir, I also feel that the corporation after widening its base should also extend its activities. Innovative schemes like rural and urban housing schemes for economical weaker sections should be taken up so that the housing problem in the country could be solved partially if not fully. In the same way, the Government should also think of extending the unemployment insurance cover. Sir, this is the most important aspect of my speech today. I would feel obliged and I would greatly feel relieved if the Government consider the unemployment insurance cover and make it obligatory on the part of the employer to pay at least part of the premium so that when the industry turns sick, the employer also has to bear the burden. Today, when the industry turns sick, the employer goes scot-free and the poor labourer has to suffer. Here I would plead that the employer should also pay a part of the premium and the labourer should be covered under the Unemployment Insurance Scheme. I strongly feel it is high time that the Government should think about this unemployment insurance to a great deal of labour particularly in the rural areas. I would also suggest that some insurance cover should also be given to the unorganised sector, namely, the landless labourers in the country. This is a very important aspect. The landless

[Shri Eduardo Faleiro]

labour today is helpless and when the GIC is expanding its capital base, I would also feel it should expand its activity in the form of giving insurance to the landless labour, the tribals and others who are still not covered under the Workmen's Compensation Act or under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme. Those who are still not covered under these two schemes should be covered by the GIC and I would greatly appreciate if the Government reacts to these suggestions particularly regarding my State of Gujarat where a great deal of agitation is going on about this Crop Insurance Scheme and I would like to apprise the Government and this hon. House that the farmers are on the war path because they are still to receive Rs. 110 crores from the General Insurance Corporation and I would feel obliged if the hon. Minister not only endorses my view but gives us a categorical reply on the crop insurance scheme which is implemented and which should be modified in some way covering every single agricultural crop. The Government should come out definitely to say whether the remaining portion of the crop insurance scheme money would be paid to the State Government for early disbursal. Thank you.

श्री शम्शेर अहमद खान रिया (जम्मू और काश्मीर) : जनाबे आली, जनरल इश्योरेस बिजनेस (नेशनलाइजेशन) तरफीमी एक्ट, 1989 जो हाउस में पेश किया गया है, इसका मैं स्वागत करता हूँ और मैं समझता हूँ कि इसके दायरे अमेल में जो वसत की गई है वह निहायत जायज और मौज है। मैं यह यजीदा अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ जनाबे आली कि इजाजत से कि जहाँ तक निहायत गरीब तबकात का ताल्लुक है उनके पास इस कदर सरमाया नहीं होता है कि वे इश्योरेस के लिए प्रीमियम की अदायगी कर सकें जिसका नतीजा यह होता है कि

वसीय और वरीय जराफागत में जो कि पसमादा, पहाडी और पिछड़े हुए हैं, जो लोग रहते हैं वे अपनी गुरबत और मुसीबत को वजह से प्रीमियम अदायगी नहीं कर सकते। इसलिए इस कानून में इस किस्म को सिक इजाफा किया जाना इसकी वजह से कि वे प्रीमियम अदा कर सकें। इस तरह अपने माल मवेशी या अपने फसलात की इश्योरेस कर सकें, होना असद जरूरी है। लिहाजा मैं इस्तदा करूंगा कि इस एक्ट में इस किस्म की तबदीली लाई जाये ताकि उन लोगों को भी इसके दायरे असर में शामिल किया जा सके।

जहाँ तक रियासते जम्मू और काश्मीर का ताल्लुक है, उस रियासत पर दो हजार करोड़ का कर्ज है और सालाना दो सौ करोड़ रुपये उसकी बतौरे सूद के अदा करने पड़ते हैं। रियासत की माली हालत इस कदर खस्ता है कि जरी इस्लाहत को नतीफज करने के बाद जिन किसानों को हक मिलकियत नया काश्मरी प्रोग्राम में दी जानी है उसको दिया जाना मुश्किल बन गया है क्योंकि जिन किसानों को हक मिलकियत दिया जाना मतलूम है उनके पास सरमाया नहीं है कि वे जरी इस्लाहत के तहत लेवो अदा कर सकें जिसके नतीजे में जहाँ उनकी मालिकाना अराजियात सरकार को मिलकियत की गई है ताहम उन अराजियात पर हक मालिकाना नहीं मिल सका क्योंकि वे लेवो अदा नहीं कर सकते। इसकी भी इश्योरेस कवर दिया जाये ताकि वे भी लेवो अदा कर सकें और इस लेवो की अदायगी को इस स्कीम के तहत कर दिया जाय। आयन्दा उन अराजियात से जो पैदावार हो उसका कुछ हिस्सा इस गर्ज से इस्तेमाल किया जाय कि इस जनरल इश्योरेस बिजनेस नेशनलाइजेशन अमेन्डमेंट एक्ट के तहत जो इदारा काम करे उसको भी एक साथ कर सके।

जहाँ तक हमारी रियासत में पड़े हुये लिखे पड़े नवजवानों का ताल्लुक है जिनके पास कोई करोबार नहीं है उनकी भी इसके तहत लाया जाना चाहिये। जब ये लोग यूनियनिस्टों से या इदारी से फारिंग होकर मेदाने अमल में आते हैं तो उन्हें जबदस्त

कम्पीटेशन का सामना करना पड़ता है जिसके तबीजे में वे अक्सर अपना कारोबार या अपना पेशा जिसमें उनको महारत होता है या जिसमें उन्होंने तालीम पाई है वह छोड़ने को मजबूर होना पड़ता है। चूंकि मुलाजिमों की तादाद बहुत कम है और सरकार उनको मुलाजिम नहीं दे सकती है तो वे फ्रस्ट्रेट होकर मुखतलिफ जराय अख्तियार कर लेते हैं और बद-अमनी के बायस बन जाते हैं। लिहाजा में इस्तदा कहेंगे कि इस स्कीम पर इस गर्ज से भी अमल किया जाय और ऐसे पढ़े-लिखे नवजवान जो मुखतलिफ इरादों से फारिक होकर मैदाने अमल में आते हैं, इस स्कीम के तहत वे नवजवान अपने पांवों पर खड़े हो सकें। उनको इन्श्योरेंस कवर दिया जाय और जब वह बफजने खुदा अपने कारोबार में नुस्तजम हो जाएं तो उसके बाद वह इसकी अदायगी करें। हमारी रियासत के बीचोंबीच एक हद्दे मतारकाए जंग गुजरती है। हमारी रियासत का एक तिहाई हिस्सा वेलिजरेट जम्मू व काश्मीर के राज्जे में है और हमारी रियासत में 22 लाख अफराद उस तरफ है। हमारी रियासत के हद्दे मतारकाए जंग के बीचोंबीच जो लोग रहते हैं या इसके करीब रहते हैं उनको रोजमर्रा दूसरी तरफ से आने वाली गोलियों और दीगर कार्यवाहियों का निशाना बनना पड़ता है। जिसके तबीजे में उनके माल, मवेशी और कुन्वे के उन अफराद की जानें चली जाती हैं जो कि कुन्वे की परवरिश के बायस होते हैं। राज कल अक्सर फायरिंग के तबीजे में कई घर बेसहारा हो चुके हैं। इस किस्म की हद्दे मतारकाए जंग जम्मू काश्मीर के

दरम्यान रहने वाले गुरबा व मफातियों को कवर करना भी इसी कानून का मकसद होना चाहिए। हमारी रियासत में आर्चंड या हार्टीकल्चर एक बहुत अहम कारोबार है लेकिन वहां पर पहाड़ी इलाका होने की वजह से अक्सर जालाबारी होती है जिसकी वजह से न सिर्फ जहां की फसलात का नुकसान होता है बल्कि जो हमारी रियासत के अन्दर बागात हैं उनमें भी होने वाले फल तबाह और बरबाद हो जाते हैं। इसलिए मैं यह अर्ज करूंगा कि उन लोगों को जो कि आर्चंड और हार्टीकल्चर का

काम करते हैं इस किस्म का कवर दिया जाए कि उनके आर्चंड भी इसमें आ जायें और वह लोग जो इस कारोबार में मस्तफ है उनके कोई राहत मिल सके। बिलाखिर में यह करना चाहता हूं कि जहां तक हमारी रियासत के उन लोगों का तात्लुक है जो प्रीमियम की अदायगी करने से कासिर हैं गवर्नमेंट कानून में तरमीम करके एक ऐसा फण्ड कायम करें कि उनकी तरफ से इसकी अदायगी की जा सके और वह अपने मकानात को जिनकी अतिशजनी सबसे ज्यादा इलाकाए काश्मीर में पाई जाते हैं उसको अजसरेनी तामील कर सके इन मारजात के साथ मैं इस बिल का स्वागत करता हूं इसका इस्तकबाल करता हूं और इसकी बेलफेयर पास आफ लेजिस्लेशन तस्सबुर करते हुए इसका समर्थन करता हूं और मैं यह वाहिश जाहिर करूंगा कि इस बिल को पास कर दिया जाय और मैं मोदबाना तीर पर यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि जिन मुश्कलात और मतायल की तरफ मैंने जनावेधाला की तवज्जी मबजूल की है उनको जैरेगीर लाया जाए।

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding the Second Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for the year 1989-90.

GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS (NATIONALISATION) AMENDMENT BILL, 1989— Contd.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR (Bihar): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I have great pleasure in supporting the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 1989. This was one of the Bills which have been pending since the last two Sessions and