

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 27th January, 1976 (the 7th Magha, 1897 (Saka))

The House met at eleven of the clock,
Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

S. C./S.T. Persons as Directors of Nationalised Banks

*390. SHRI BHAIYA RAM MUNDA:†
SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the question of appointing some persons from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as Directors in the Boards of Directors of all the nationalised banks, the State Bank of India and the Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) if so, what is the number of such Directors and when they will be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) At present, there are nineteen persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as non-official Directors/Members on the Boards of Reserve Bank of India and of public sector banks.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI: Will the Minister give us the break-up of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If he has got the information, he can give.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: In the case of the United Bank of India, both of them are Scheduled Tribes, the rest are Scheduled Castes.

श्री भय्याराम मुण्डा : शेड्युल्ड कास्ट और शेड्युल्ड ट्राइब्स का रेश्यो आज 15 परसेंट और साढ़े सात परसेंट का है, तो

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhaiya Ram Munda.

इस हिसाब से इन बोर्डों में इन लोगों की नियुक्ति करने के प्रश्न पर सरकार विचार करेगी ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : The hon. Member is mistaken. We are talking of Directors and there is no such percentage regarding Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to be appointed on the Board of Directors.

श्री भय्याराम मुण्डा : शेड्युल्ड ट्राइब्स के लोग ज्यादातर जंगल और पहाड़ों पर रहते हैं और खेती करते हैं। उन को खेती के काम में तुंबे वगैरह बनाने में, पंपिंग सेट्स लगाने में ऋण की जरूरत होती है और उसे हासिल करने में शेड्युल्ड ट्राइब्स के लोगों को बड़ी दिक्कत होती है। इस लिए अगर वे लोग इन बोर्डों में अधिक से अधिक रहें तो वे अपनी कठिनाइयों को बोर्ड के सामने रख सकते हैं। सरकार इन लोगों की दिक्कत को देखते हुए क्या अधिक से अधिक इस वर्ग के लोगों को बोर्ड्स में डाइरेक्टर बनाने के प्रश्न पर विचार करेगी ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : I do agree with the hon. Member that more and more Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be involved in the management of banks so that their interests are looked after in a better way. I agree with the suggestion and it is our endeavour to see that more and more people are appointed.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are much worried by coming across the views expressed by some representative of the Government and also by courts that article 335 of the Constitution applies only to appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State and to posts the payment for which is made from the Consolidated Fund of the State or of the Union and that posts in the public sector undertakings are excluded. So, may I ask the hon. Minister what policy is being adopted so far as the appointment

of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the nationalised banks is concerned?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: This question relates to the appointment of directors and not to the appointment of personnel or employees.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN: I want to know the policy of the Government.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : So far as the policy of the Government is concerned, we want to see that more and more Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are employed in banks.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : What is the actual policy? May I know whether the provisions of article 335 are applicable in the case of appointments in the nationalised banks?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has explained it. The Government will try to take them and more according to necessity.

SHRI N. H. KUMBHARE : The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who constitute 21 per cent, represent the lowest strata of the society and in the context of the twenty-point economic programme more emphasis should be laid on helping the poorer sections.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This question pertains only to the boards of directors.

SHRI N. H. KUMBHARE : As a matter of fact there are certain schemes drawn up by the banks so as to make loans available on liberal terms. But the response from the poorer sections has been very poor. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government has under contemplation any other scheme by which all the needy people will be advanced loans on liberal terms and I think it should be possible to do this without asking from them any guarantee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This question does not arise.

SHRI N. H. KUMBHARE : Then I will ask another question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should have done it before.

SHRI N. H. KUMBHARE : We have been told by the Minister that some Directors have been appointed from among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I would like to know specifically whether Directors belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been appointed on all the banks which have been nationalised. Is there any mechanism for ensuring that they are in all the banks?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : I have already mentioned that Directors have not been appointed in all the banks. But we are trying to see that they are appointed in all nationalised banks and in the Central Board of the Reserve Bank and the State Bank of India in the headquarters.

SHRI N. H. KUMBHARE : By what time ?

श्री रोशन लाल : मैं वजीरे आला से यह दरियाफ्त करना चाहता हूँ कि डाइरेक्टर्स के अप्वाइमेन्ट के लिए कौन से जावते और कायदे कानूनों की दरकार है जिनको पूरा करने के बाद शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट और शेड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स के लोग डाइरेक्टर्स बन सकते हैं ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : I have already mentioned that there is no statutory provision for appointing Directors from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But in order to see that their interests are also looked after, we have taken the administrative decision to accommodate more and more people belonging to these communities in the Boards of various nationalised banks.

SHRI ROSHAN LAL: What are the qualifications?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Experience in banks and financial management.

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : The hon. Minister said that there are 14 Directors from these communities. I would like to know whether any directives or instructions have been given by the Finance Ministry to the Banks to take more and more people from these communities as Directors. These 14 Directors were taken by the banks because they wanted them considering their capacity. I want to know whether

