

(c) Yes, Sir. But the completion of the project will not be delayed because of any objection raised by Pakistan.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : It does not contain anything. I should like to know whether in view of the controversy which has arisen over this matter between India and Pakistan what steps Government is taking, and is the Government aware that the project is being delayed for some reason or the other?

DR. K. L. RAO : I am sorry to contradict the hon'ble Member; there is no delay. On the other hand we are expecting the project to be accelerated and it will now be completed one year ahead of what was thought to be the original schedule.

SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a team of officers of the Government of Pakistan recently visited Farrakka Barrage . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Sen Gupta, put a question.

SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA : I am coming to it. I am only following the pattern of this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You must change the pattern.

SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA : Since when?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You put the question. Do not waste more time.

SHRI J. P. YADAV : You start the pattern with Mr. Bhupesh Gupta and Mr. Rajnarain; otherwise nobody will follow it.

SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA : May I know, Sir, whether the team of officers of the Government of Pakistan was allowed to see all the details of the working of the Farrakka Barrage and if so, whether there was any reciprocal arrangement between the Government of India and Pakistan to see their barrages in Pakistan?

DR. K. L. RAO : Quite so, Sir. The officers did not go into the details of working. But the Pakistan officers were allowed to visit our Farrakka Barrage, and as a reciprocal arrangement our officers have gone over to East Pakistan to see the Ganges Kabadak and other connected areas recently, this month.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know, Sir, from the hon'ble Minister if it is a fact that the Pakistan Government is trying to somehow delay the thing and put pressure through other bodies to refer the whole matter to a third party, and if the Government is being pressurised for that, may I know if there is any difference of opinion in the Cabinet about it, and whether the Government will assure us that they will not come under any pressure to refer the whole matter to a third party and that a decision will be taken quickly?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : There is no difference of opinion in the Cabinet in this matter. Government will not be pressurised by anybody.

CONCESSIONS TO BIG BUSINESS BY BANKS

*36. **SHRI R. P. KHAITAN :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the extra concessions being given to the big businessmen by the Banks in respect of the rate of interest as compared to the concessions being given to small businessmen; and

(b) the names of the Banks which are providing such concessions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) The rate of interest charged by the banks on their advances usually depends on considerations like the security available against the loan, the purpose for which the loan is granted, the credit worthiness of the party and his antecedents etc. There is no classification of borrowers as big and small businessmen for this purpose.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री आर० पी० खेतान : अगर कम सेक्योरिटी के हिसाब से ब्याज की दर ज्यादा होती है तो उसमें मुझे कोई उज्र नहीं है लेकिन एक ही तरह की सेक्योरिटी दे दी जाती है और फिर भी उस सेक्योरिटी पर ब्याज की दर उन लोगों से कम ली जाती है दूसरों से ज्यादा ली जाती है जिसमें उनका कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन ज्यादा बढ़ जाता है जब कि एक को लाम ज्यादा होता है। तो क्या सरकार ऐसी कोई व्यवस्था करेगी जिसमें एक ही रकम की सेक्योरिटी में ब्याज की दर एक ही तरह की हो?

श्री के० सी० पन्त : यह तो बैंक को तय करना पड़ता है वह कितने तक रिस्क लेना चाहती है। अगर छोटा बिजनेस हो और उसमें सेक्योरिटी अच्छी हो तो बैंक अपनी दर कम करता है, अगर बड़ा बिजनेस है मगर उसमें सेक्योरिटी कम है और रिस्क ज्यादा है तो बैंक दर बढ़ाती है।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I was surprised when he said that there is no classification about big and small businessmen. Is the hon'ble Minister aware that there is very great resentment amongst small and medium businessmen in the country? They say they do not get accommodation from the banks and that as a result their business and industry suffer? May I know what steps Government is taking in the matter with a view to seeing that the savings of the community accumulated in the hands of the big business in the country find their way to small and medium industries so that there is better distribution over industrial enterprises in our country and also removal of disparity which is there for lack of finances by the banks?

SHRI K. C. PANT : I am glad to inform the hon'ble Member that it is a part of the Government's deliberate policy to help the small-scale sector. I will give you a few instances. The Government is already implementing the credit guarantee scheme for small-scale industries. I hope he knows the details of this. The State Bank of India has also introduced a scheme for financing craftsmen and other qualified

entrepreneurs desirous of setting up small industries but who lack resources therefor. Then, the interest charged by the State Bank on its loans to the small-sector is lower than the normal rate. The Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation has, with effect from 10-7-1968, increased its guarantee cover from 66½ per cent. to 90 per cent. in respect of guarantees furnished in favour of small exporters with an annual export turnover of Rs. 2 lakhs or more.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : The Government have assured this House to introduce a national policy regarding credit. May we know whether the Government has introduced such a policy and, if so, what are its salient features?

SHRI K. C. PANT : As the hon'ble Member knows a National Credit Council has been set up. Among other recommendations it has laid down that the larger proportion of the credit should flow to priority sectors like agriculture, exports, etc. In the field of exports various steps have been taken to see that credit flows on reasonable rate of interest to the export sector. Also in recent months steps have been taken to see that there is larger flow of credit at reasonable rates to agriculture.

OFF-SHORE EXPLORATION OF OIL IN THE GULF OF CAMBAY

*37. **SHRI CHITTA BASU† :**

SHRI A. D. MANI :

SARDAR RAM SINGH :

SHRI DEVI SINGH :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the reply to the Unstarred Question No. 89 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd July, 1968 and state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken with regard to the proposed collaboration scheme for the off-shore exploration of oil in the gulf of Cambay; and

(b) If so, what are the details thereof?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chitta Basu.