

RAJYA SABHA

Day, the 30th April, 1968/the 10th
Vaisakha, 1890 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, the
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN

Shri N. P. Chaudhri (Madhya
Pradesh)

Shri T. G. Deshmukh (Maharashtra).

Shri Kumbha Ram Arya (Rajasthan).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

•31. SHRI A. D. MANI; Will the Minister
of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development
Bank has started giving loans to various
countries; and

(b) whether India is a Constituent
Member of this Bank?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI
R. DESAI): (a) Yes, Madam. So far the Asian
Development Bank has given one loan
amounting to \$5 million to Industrial Finance
Corporation of Thailand.

(b) Yes, Madam. India is a member of the
Bank.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Madam, I
would like to ask the hon. Finance Minister
whether it is not a fact that this Asian
Development Bank has already conducted
preliminary surveys in 19 countries and India
is not one such country. the Finance Minister
stated day before yesterday in the other House
that India wants to help other undeveloped
nations. We ourselves are undeveloped
and why

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is, it that no project has been put forward
before the Bank, for example, a project for
irrigation and canals for the desert areas in
India? Why has not the Government submitted
any scheme for the consideration of this
Bank?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: India is
included. The agricultural survey is included
and so it is not correct to say that India has not
been included. In that survey it was included.
This is a new bank which has started now in
the Asian region and we have the biggest
share among all the nations in that region and
we are more developed than some others.
Under those conditions if we take away a large
chunk of this bank we will be suspected
completely. Then how will we be considered
as friends by all these people? So it is not even
wisdom to ask for it and I want to ask the hon.
Member not to do so.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have not
yet got the names of all the new Members.
That Member over there.

SHRI M. R. VENKATARAMAN: I am
Venkataraman. This bank is constituted with
a capital of about 1,000 million dollars and
our contribution is to be 93 million dollars,
whereas the USA and Japan contribute about
200 million dollars each. I understand that the
voting strength goes in accordance with the
capital put in. When we ourselves are in a bad
way . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
Please put your question direct.

SHRI M. R. VENKATARAMAN: I am
straightway putting the question. When we
ourselves are obliged to go in for loans even
to pay back earlier loans what purpose is
served by our continuing to be in the Asian
Bank and be at the mercy of people like the
USA and other countries with much larger
capital investments in this bank?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: It is not as if we are at the mercy of anybody. Nobody is at the mercy of anybody in the bank and voting strength does not give the majority to any one party. So there is no such question at all. We are certainly developing though we are not developed fully. That does not mean that we should not help those who are with us in the same region, according to our own capacity. It is by helping others that we will deserve more help and we ourselves will develop as a result of that help.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNU-DU: What is the total share capital of this Asian Development Bank and what is the contribution of the Government of India? Have we got to pay that contribution in gold? Or have we to pay it in convertible currency or in any other form? And have we got to pay it in one lump sum or in instalments? If in instalments in how many instalments and what is the amount of each instalment?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: I could not understand everything that he asked.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He wants to know in what currency it is to be paid.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: That I have understood, but not, the last portion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What was your last question? It could not be followed.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNU-DU: What is the entire share capital of the Asian Development Bank? What is our contribution? That is one question. Secondly, have we got to pay it in gold or in convertible currency or in any other form?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Yes, the share capital of the Asian Development Bank is 1,000 million dollars. It has been raised to 1,100 million dollars with the admission of Indonesia and Switzerland to the

membership of the bank. Our contribution to the share capital is \$1 million dollars. Half of the share capital is called for and it has to be paid in five years. Half of that has to be paid in convertible currency and the rest is to be given in non-convertible currency.

PROVIDENT FUND DEPOSITS OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

*32. DR. B. N. ANTANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are holding huge amounts of the Provident Fund deposits of the Gazetted and non-Gazetted Government servants for the entire period of their service through the accounts maintained by the A.G.C.R. and other accounts offices;

(b) if so, whether these accounts are being furnished regularly soon after the 31st March of every year; if not, what are the reasons for the delay;

(c) the total number of such accounts being maintained by the A.G.C.R. at present;

(d) whether it is a fact that individual statements have not so far been received by the Union Ministries for the year 1966-67 whereas the statements for the year 1967-68

are also due shortly after 31st March, 1968; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what is the rate of interest offered by Government to such deposits in G. P. Fund accounts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA¹): (a) It is a fact that there are substantial amounts with Government representing the balances of the various Provident Funds. These funds are not however held for the entire period of service of the Government servants as they can, during service, take advances and make final withdrawals for specified purposes as provided in the rules.