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NEWS BULLETIN FROM ALL INDIA BANK EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024

Speaking on this Bill, **P. P. Suneer, Member of Parliament from CPI from Kerala** addressed the issues facing India's banking ecosystem, criticizing the repeated mismanagement under the BJP's rule, which he claimed favors large corporate interests while causing suffering for bank employees, students, youth, and ordinary citizens.

Over the past decade, he stated that **Rs. 16.35 lakh crore in bad loans had been written off, benefiting corporate defaulters, while common borrowers faced increasing penalties** and long recovery pressures.

He noted the government's reluctance to waive off loans for farmers and students, contrasting this with its willingness to protect corporates who default on large sums.

Com. Suneer argued that **the financial system allows the wealthy to evade accountability while the common man bears the financial burden.** He highlighted that co-operative banks, which serve small farmers, traders, and rural communities, have been systematically sidelined.

While corporate banks receive government bail-outs, co-operative banks struggle to survive. He emphasized that if the goal is genuine financial inclusion, co-operative banks must be granted the same level of policy support and access to capital, which would empower millions of small borrowers often overlooked by larger financial institutions.

Additionally, he pointed to the rise of shadow lenders and cyber fraud as new threats to the financial system.

He warned that non-banking financial companies operate without stringent oversight, posing significant risks to economic stability. Meanwhile, he noted a rise in digital banking fraud, leaving citizens vulnerable to financial scams.

Suneer called for stronger regulations to control unregulated lenders and for investments in robust cyber-security measures to protect citizens' hard earned money.

He insisted that the time for vague promises was over and demanded immediate action. The government, he stated, should recover public money from big defaulters rather than writing off their loans.

He also urged that all vacant posts in public sector banks be filled to provide employment and enhance services.

The implementation of a 5-day banking week was recommended to support employees and increase productivity.

He reiterated that co-operative banks deserved the backing necessary to serve the public effectively, and strict regulations on shadow lending and improved cyber-security measures must be enforced to protect citizens from financial fraud.

He stressed that these demands are not mere requests but essential corrections needed in the banking system, urging the government to take action now.

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