

Seventeenth Loksabha

&gt;

Title: Regarding privatisation of public sector banks-laid.

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM):** Bank unions under the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) is on a nationwide strike on December 16 and 17 against the proposed privatisation of public sector banks (PSBs). Close to 9 lakh employees of PSBs like State of India (SBI), Punjab National Bank (PNB), Central Bank of India are on a two-day strike. These unions are protesting against the government's intent to privatise two public sector banks (PSBs). The government has planned to bring the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 during the ongoing Parliament session. The AIBEA reiterated its stand that if the government would assure that the Bank Privatisation Bill (Banking Laws Amendment Bill, 2021) would not be tabled during this session of the Parliament, we would be inclined to reconsider the strike but the government could not give any such assurance to them and the unions were forced to go on strike. The Union said that if PSBs are privatized then bank branches in rural and backward regions will be closed and implementation of all government schemes meant for EWS (economically weaker sections) will be affected. I urge upon the Government to consider the genuine demands raised by bank employees' unions to avoid a strike.