

MR. SPEAKER: You do it.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
Sir, today the employees of Regional Rural Banks are on *dharna*. Yesterday the employees of almost all the public sector banks were marching on the streets of Delhi. It is obvious that the bankmen of our country have become restive. They are objecting to many things in the Narasimhan Committee report including the tendency to allow the private and foreign banks to function in our country, over-shadowing the public sector banks.

Today's *dharna* has a history of some five or ten years.

12.25 hrs.

[Shri Sharad Dighe *in the Chair*]

In 1983, the employees of the regional rural banks moved the Supreme Court for a simple demand which is recognised in our Constitution also, that is equal pay for equal work. They had to go to the Supreme Court to guarantee that. After that, the Supreme Court directed the Government of India to appoint a national industrial tribunal to consider the structure of wage and pay in this particular sector. This tribunal gave its award on 30th April, 1990, that is nearly two years ago. This award was that they should get equal pay, allowances and benefits like the commercial banks of the country and that too from 1st September, 1987, that is a retrospective effect was given of nearly three years.

The story is that the Government of India accepted the award *in toto* and issued Government order on 22nd February, 1991, that is, a year ago.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Be brief.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
Even up to now, they have not been given the benefits of the award. The implementation of the award of the tribunal is still being awaited after two years have passed since the award of the tribunal. Naturally, the payment of arrears from 1st September, 1987, as per the above-mentioned award, have not yet been paid.

Sometime back we were discussing about Maruti, the people's car, etc. These bank employees come a little below that strata of income. They are being denied their pay for the last five years because the award is from 1987. And they are sitting on *dharna*. Through you, I draw the attention of the Minister of state for Parliamentary Affairs, who at one time. I may remind him - was not dissociated from such movements, to have a response about what the Government proposed to do to meet the demands which are made during *dharna*. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura):
Sir, I have also given notice. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the naxalite activities in bordering areas of Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa. A women's naxalite organisation has come up there, which is active particularly in the tribal-dominated Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh. Their centre is situated at Garh-Chaiauli in Maharashtra from where they conduct all their activities. This naxalite organisation is working under the patronage of people's War Group. Primarily they are taught how to throw spears and shoot arrows but at the same time they are also taught to use rifle, to make and to use A.K-47 rifles. There is sharp increase in naxalite activities in the bordering areas of all the four States, particularly women are being organised to revolt. This organisation is active in Dandakarnya area. I would like to know from the Government the details of the steps taken and being taken to curb the fast growing naxalite activities immediately which are creating disturbances in the bordering areas of those four States.

[*English*]

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI (Serampore): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House on a very important matter. Since its inception, the State Bank of India's Foreign Department at Calcutta had been performing the centralised

foreign exchange dealing and cover operations and controlling the entire foreign exchange business of State Bank of India efficiently. But the State Bank management has been trying to shift the Foreign Department from Calcutta to Bombay and transferring important jobs from Calcutta Office since 1960s. In 1983, the management has shifted the rupee travellers cheque section from Calcutta to Bombay and in 1986-87, they opened dealing centres at Bombay, Madras and Delhi to decentralise the foreign exchange dealing and cover operations. The State Bank of India Staff Association and a section of the State Bank Officers have strongly objected to these steps, which in their opinion, would erode the profitability of the State Bank's foreign exchange transactions. They are of the view that the Foreign Department in Calcutta with its expertise infrastructure and centralised cover operations could better compete with other banks in quoting best foreign exchange rates to the corporate clients.

Therefore, I would request the Government to clarify its position and to state clearly that the Foreign Department at Calcutta will not be shifted to Bombay or any other place. This is an urgent matter which involves not only the fate of hundreds of employees but also a question of efficiency of the State Bank Foreign Department.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, before starting your list, please listen to me.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will allow you after the Members, who have given notice, have spoken.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (Mukundapuram): Sir, a fire which lasted for more than ten hours broke out in a factory campus, Premier Cables, Karukutty in my constituency. A fireman, Mr. Radhakrishnan

lost his life and several others were injured while trying to put off the fire and save the cable factory.

It was not the first incident in this campus. From 1991, January 26th onwards, the factory is under lock-out due to certain labour problems. After that, for more than at least four times, there was fire inside the campus. Grass up to twelve feet high and heaps of old insulation wire may be the cause for spreading fire to 62 acres of the campus. All the trees in the campus caught fire. It is reported that the fire line was not cleared in the campus.

I urge upon the Government to institute an inquiry in the matter and necessary compensation may be awarded to the deceased the deserving officials and the public too.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRISHIN PATIL (Siwan): Mr. Chairman, sir, the hon. Members have been raising in this House on earlier occasions also, the question of reinstating those employees who had been dismissed from service under section 14 (11). On the one hand, the question of their reinstatement has been raised and on the other hand, employees are being dismissed under section 14 (11) even today.

The officers of the Muzaffarpur division of the N.E. Railway dismissed the Head Clerk working in the office of permanent Way Inspector on 20.11.91 and the Office Superintendent in the office of Shri C.K. Pandey Executive Engineer (Works), Muzaffarpur on 25.11.91 under Section 14 (11). The offence for which they had been dismissed, is still pending in the court. When the matter is subjudice, how were they dismissed? You are aware that there is a direction of the Supreme Court that show-cause notice should be given to the employees before dismissing them. They should be given ample time to defend themselves. The officers dismissed the employees in violation of all this. Injustice has been meted out to them. Therefore, through you, I demand an urgent