

## चण्डीगढ़ में नियुक्त केन्द्रीय सरकार के कर्म- चारियों द्वारा प्रस्तावित हड़ताल

4423. श्री फूल चन्द वर्मा : क्या वित्त मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या चंडीगढ़ में नियुक्त केन्द्रीय सरकार के कर्मचारियों का नगर प्रतिकर भत्ते की अपनी मांग के समर्थन में हड़ताल करने का विचार है ;

(ख) क्या उन्हें पहले नगर प्रतिकर भत्ता दिया जाता था लेकिन वर्ष 1969 के बाद वह समाप्त कर दिया गया था ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस बारे में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

वित्त मन्त्रालय में राज्य मन्त्री (श्री के० आर० गणेश) : (क) तथा (ख). उपलब्ध रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, चंडीगढ़ में तैनात केन्द्रीय सरकारी कर्मचारी उस विशेष प्रतिपूर्ति भत्ते की बहाली के लिये आन्दोलन कर रहे हैं, जो उन्हें पहले मिलता था और जो 1-1-1964 से बन्द कर दिया गया है। ऐसी कोई निश्चित सूचना प्राप्त नहीं हुई है कि चंडीगढ़ के केन्द्रीय सरकारी कर्मचारी इस बाबत हड़ताल करने की सोच रहे हैं।

(ग) इस मामले की जांच की जा रही है।

12 hrs.

### CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED FRAUD ON A CALCUTTA BANK

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : I call the attention of the Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The reported fraud on a nationalised bank in Calcutta over the last 12 months involving Rupees sixty lakhs."

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : I

wish to make a submission. Yesterday I heard about this on the All India Radio. I would like to know whether this information was given by Government.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him answer it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : It raises an issue of privilege. That is why I am saying this.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begu-sarai) : Very prompt in Calcutta. But in Delhi the Nagarwalas are let off while the Calcutta Nagarwalas are caught !

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. In the context of the need for giving better credit facilities to the weaker sections for the community, the nationalised banks have been extending liberal credit facilities to small scale industries and small business men. It is understood that a gang of criminals working in collusion with some bank officials of United Bank of India, Calcutta, took advantage of these liberal credit facilities available and took out large sums of money in the name of different firms, some of them fictitious by submitting fake documents. The police report indicates that the bank officials involved in this, advanced these moneys without proper verification of documents in violation of the normal rules and regulations currently prevalent. The Calcutta police, on receipt of information regarding this, conducted simultaneous raids on 26-4-1972 in which they recovered a large number of incriminating documents, including blank and filled in loan proposal forms, papers and bank documents, which are meant to be normally kept in the bank. They arrested four persons in this connection. Subsequently, on receipt of statements from the arrested persons more raids were carried out and two more persons were arrested. Preliminary enquiries conducted by the police reveal that the amount involved would be about Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 lakhs. The Court have issued summons to the bank to make an assessment of the total amount defrauded on the basis of relevant records.

A case under Section 120 B, 409, 467 and 471 I.P.C., has been registered and all the accused persons have been remanded to police custody till 5.5.1972.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : It seems from the reply that this thing has been

[Shri Chintamani Panigrahi]

taking place in the United Bank of India, its different branches in Calcutta, for the last one year at different times. Has the Minister also inquired when this has been going on for a period of one year in different branches of the bank, whether only one officer or more were involved in this? How was it that fake documents had been accepted and passed by the officer? Did these documents go only to one higher officer at one point so that he and his accomplices could take away the money? Was any inquiry made when the loans were advanced to small businessmen? I find in my state that some bank officers take bribes from these people. How is it that no inquiry was made?

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): He took bribe without going there.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Secondly, the hon. Minister has pointed that even the amount of Rs. 50-60 lakhs is not a correct amount and it may be that the bank has been defrauded more. Is the actual amount defrauded now known and what is the extent of the fraud that has taken place?

Thirdly, has any attempt been made to trace these Rs. 50-60 laks and is it going to be recovered? In view of this experience, are Government going to take any stringent measures so that these things do not recur in these banks?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: I share the concern of the hon. Member and the entire House about this very deplorable criminal breach of trust that has taken place in one of the nationalised banks. Before I take up the specific points which the hon. Member has raised, I would like to submit that while it is not my intention to minimise the seriousness and the prospective significance of a fraudulent act as pointed out in my statement, there are certain other aspects. As a result of new avenues of credit policy that have been initiated and a very large number of persons who had not gone to the banks earlier having now been brought into the net of credit facilities of the banks, this criminal activity of a gang in collusion with certain bank officials has come to notice. I would only point out that while it is a very significant thing and a serious thing, because it concerns us all and we have to take all necessary steps to see that Procedural defects are remedied and steps are taken to see that these things do not recur,

the total amount of advances the nationalised banks have given amount to Rs. 4,172 crores.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Is he comparing the amount of fraud with the total amount of advances given?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: No, I have already made that clear.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Give the all-India figure of fraud also. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. R. GANESH: The only point is that since the banks are nationalised, this fraudulent act which probably was part of the operation of commercial banks in the private sector is now coming out.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Nonsense.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: This Parliament has now the opportunity to discuss this question so that the banks, the Reserve Bank of India and Government can take appropriate measures. These are the left-overs of what was happening before the commercial banks were nationalised.

SHRI PILOO MODY: I strongly object to a call attention motion being used to make propaganda for the Minister's particular point of view or economic policy. The fact of the matter is that the conception, inception and actual execution of the fraud was done after the banks were nationalised. If he wants to praise the nationalised banks, he can do it in the press and on the radio. He can agree to a discussion over here: you may permit him to do so. But he must give accurate and comparable figures.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: The entire thing was a fraud. (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. What fun do you get out of it, by shouting from all sides?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: I had already submitted that the Government is concerned about this particular fraud and fraudulent acts that have come to notice. We will take all steps to see that wherever procedural loopholes are there, these are plugged.

The only point that I was trying to submit is that....(*Interruption*)....because credit is now given to a much larger section of the people, this has given the opportunity for

criminal gangs which are a creation of a very lopsided imbalance in society, in the preservation of which some of the hon. Members are very much interested. (Interruption)

SHRI PILOO MODY : He is interested in nationalising fraud.

MR. SPEAKER : Instead of going through all this rigmarole, why don't you come straight to the question and say that you are enquiring into it ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : According to your direction, I would now come to the specific points which the hon. Member has raised.

MR. SPEAKER : No instructions from me.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : To the specific point that the hon. Member has raised, whether one or more officers are involved, I had already indicated that two officers have been arrested and there is a reasonable suspicion, which is now under investigation, that more officers may be involved in the various branches of the bank which the police are now investigating.

Whether there has been a fraud to the extent of Rs. 60 lakhs or more amounts have been defrauded, is a matter which is now under investigation by the police. The police is not giving out all the documents that are there.

The Reserve Bank had already taken certain steps to see that these procedural difficulties are removed. They have from time to time advised the banks and given them guidelines. A Central team of the Reserve Bank is now going round all the nationalised banks to find out the various facts that are there and to see that this sort of fraud does not take place.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : What about the chances of recovery ? How much money is recovered ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Only the day before yesterday, this thing has come out. The police have made a raid. It is not possible for me to say more. But all efforts will be made to recover as much money as is possible.

SHRI GADADHAR SAHA (Birbhum) : Sir, it is said in the statement made by the Minister that this case of cheating in the United Bank of India at Calcutta is the result

of a deep-seated conspiracy of a gang of criminals and some bank officials, and a gang of racketeers has been taking out large monies fraudulently and easily. I want to know that is the Minister's explanation about the circumstances under which this sort of offence took place. How can the banks go on advancing money without prior investigation and verification of documents and the genuineness of the documents ?

Sir, we found in many cases that the real agriculturists and small businessmen are still experiencing difficulties in obtaining loans from the banks. But this case of cheating shows that a gang of criminal racketeers is taking out large sums of money from the banks very easily. My question is : how this sort of thing is taking place and why have not the Government taken any precautionary measures to stop recurrence of such things ? Cheating in a bank is not a new thing in India. Fourteen nationalised banks lost about Rs. 1.14 crores between September 1969 and May 1971. During this period there were 320 cases of cheating in the banks and many more cases of cheating are being added on to this number. It is really strange, that while cases of cheating are increasing and Government had got knowledge and information about all this, why have not they taken any steps to stop this offence ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Sir, this sort of fraud could take place because of collusion between some officers and employees of the bank and the criminal gang that has come up as a result of the base of credit being broadened. That is why the very essential requirements which the bank insists and which sometimes delays the genuine, bonafide applications and clients who ask for loans were given up. They did not give proper scrutiny because some of the bank's officers and employees were in collusion with this criminal gang and that is why this has taken place. The hon. Member has given some figures. We ourselves have supplied this information to Parliament and from the statement we have supplied it will be seen whether in each case the person had been arrested and so on ; the number of persons arrested or prosecuted is given there, as also the amount of money that has been realised from them.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore) : How much money has been realised ?... (Interruptions) Answers are not forthcoming.

MR. SPEAKER : Only Members who have put the question are entitled to ask clarifications. There is a specific procedure. Why do you deviate from it? I shall not take notice of any deviations.

12.18 hrs

#### STATEMENT RE. OBSERVANCE OF MAY DAY AS HOLIDAY IN LOK SABHA

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : Sir, as I submitted yesterday we as a nation have a much larger number of holidays as compared to any other nation. Even so, with a view to identify ourselves with the struggles and aspirations of the working class, we agree that the May Day may be observed as a holiday. But we will have to forego at least one other holiday in lieu thereof. Accordingly, our House too may not sit on Monday the 1st of May, but Government Business scheduled for that day may kindly be taken up in the following days by foregoing another holiday in this week or in the next, that is, Saturday.

May I also repeat that the whole system and basis of Public Holidays in our country needs revision and the matter is receiving the consideration of the Government. I sincerely hope that in this task we shall receive the willing cooperation of all sections of our community and in particular of the Members of Parliament, belonging to all parties and groups, with a view to maintain and enhance the momentum of production and the growth of our economy.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : It has been declared a holiday, as far as we are concerned. But we want it to be declared a public holiday for the entire nation.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : To do this many steps have to be taken by many organisations. Therefore, we have left it to them by saying "it may be declared a holiday".

MR. SPEAKER : I am very happy that the Minister has agreed to this suggestion. But the other alternative is also worth noting. My suggestion is that, instead of sitting on one Saturday, we may forego the discussion on one Demand. Are you prepared for that?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : We will sit on one Saturday.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : The session may be extended by one day.

MR. SPEAKER : Many Members have already fixed up some appointments for Saturday. So, they will be inconvenienced. Further, it cannot be any Saturday; it has to be a Saturday; before the 12th.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Let us sit tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER : We can have extra sitting by one hour for two days. Then we would be losing only 3½ hours.

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam) : We can forego the lunch hour on some days.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, for three days we will forego the lunch hour. In that way we will save our Saturdays.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : While welcoming this announcement, I would suggest that either the Prime Minister or the Labour Minister should request the employers to declare it a holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Mr. SPEAKER : Government will take note of his suggestion

12.22 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

##### RAF PLANES IN ANDAMAN GROUP OF ISLANDS

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table, in pursuance of an assurance given by me on the 13th April, 1972 during supplementaries on Starred Question No. 395, a statement clarifying the information given by me regarding landing of R.A.F. planes in Andaman Group of Islands. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1872/72]

##### NOTIFICATIONS UNDER EMERGENCY RISKS (GOODS) INSURANCE ACT, EMERGENCY RISKS (UNDER-TAKINGS) INSURANCE ACT, ETC. ETC.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English Versions)