

Pradesh in the national as well as public interest.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very important matter. Lakhs of employees belonging to 196 branches of rural banks all over the country are agitating for the last several days and they are staging a dharna. They have also given a notice to go on strike from 31st March. The national tribunal award should be implemented by amalgamation of 196 branches of rural banks into an All India Rural Bank. I have drawn the attention of the hon. Finance Minister also towards this problem and I had requested him to take constructive and creative steps in this regard so that lakhs of employees working in nearly 400 branches of 196 rural banks and who are agitating this time could be benefited. There is much discontent among them and it is an injustice to them.

I, would, therefore, like to request that an All India Rural Bank should be constituted by nationalising all the branches of the rural banks in the country and their service conditions and conditions for customers should be decided. What happens today is that officers of the sponsored Banks come on deputation to these banks; They work as Managers for 3 years in these branches and indulge in corrupt practices and create many scandals there.

So, my submission is that all the branches of Rural Banks should be amalgamated and National Tribunal Award which was accepted after the Supreme Court verdict, should be implemented. It had been agreed to by the former Finance Minister..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am again saying that there are 542 Members in the House.

The Members who have already spoken during the Question Hour should not speak under Rule 377 and those who have already spoken under Rule 377 should not speak during Zero Hour, so that everybody gets a chance to speak.

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV (Shahjahanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the journalists and press photographers for Uttar Pradesh are in great danger. There are many such instances in which the pressmen have been beaten in collusion with the administration.

Sir, I had myself gone to Kanpur. There was a murderous assault on the life of press-photographer, Abhir Singh Alias Lalla. He was hit by the head and beaten mercilessly. The Government of Uttar Pradesh shed off its responsibility by just sanctioning a meagre amount of Rs. 10,000. Sir, the most shameful thing is that the photographers were attacked only because they had entered the venue of BJP meeting during the course of their President's Ekata Yatra.

MR. SPEAKER: It will get more publicity, if you people go on speaking on this.

SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV: There was a clash between senior journalists and photographers and police and the Senior Superintendent of Police threw a challenge to them. The result was that he engineered an assault on the photographer. The Chief Minister is talking of enquiry only... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: It is over, please keep quiet now. This matter is being raised again and again. If you will speak more, it would get more publicity.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV: