

an>

Title : Issue regarding dharna/demonstration by bank employees against merger of Banks and shifting of Head Offices of Allahabad Bank and United Bank of India.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM):Hon. Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise an important matter of public importance.

Sir, the bank employees from all over the country, led by the United Forum of bank unions, are sitting on a *dharna* in *Jantar Mantar* today. This *dharna* is against the consolidation of banks by which the total number of banks are sought to be reduced. All unions of employees and officers are participating in the *dharna*. I went there. They are saying that with the consolidation of banks, the number of bank branches will become less and people will lose jobs. The number of ATMs will become less and people will lose jobs. Our hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal has written to the hon. Finance Minister asking the Government to stop this process of merging banks.

Sir, I demand that this anti-people, anti-*grahak* conspiracy of the Government of reducing the number of banks should be stopped and also the decision to shift the Head offices of Allahabad Bank and United Bank of India should be withdrawn ...(*Interruptions*)

Thank you.