

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