

Supervisory Board had also been constituted for this purpose. It had been decided to take three M.Ps of the Lok Sabha in the Board according to relevant provisions. Members of the previous Lok Sabha including were nominated to the said Board. But no Government took interest to constitute the Central Supervisory Board in 1994. Once again when the present Lok Sabha was constituted two M.Ps of Lok Sabha were nominated to the Board. I was again nominated to the Board, but the Board has not yet been constituted. When I raised the matter 2-3 times, I got the intimation about the constitution of the Board. Not a single sitting of the Board has been held since 1994. It was a very important issue for which a Joint Committee had been constituted. It seems that nobody is prepared to consider the cause of woman whether it relates to reservation for women, atrocities on them or birth of female Child. I would like you to intervene in the matter and see that the meeting of the Central Advisory Board is held immediately. Everybody expressed sympathy to check female foeticide. Action should be taken in this regard in the real sense.

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, we are also on a point of order. Please give your ruling on it.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, there is complete unanimity in the House in regard to according recognition to Railway Protection Force Association.

The recognition to the Association was withdrawn in 1986. Its Joint Secretary, Shri U.S. Jha, is on an indefinite fast. This House and the Leader of the Opposition, who spoke about three years back, demanded that the recognition to the RPF Association, which was there prior to amendment of the RPF Act, should be restored.

In piloted a Private Member's Bill. On a firm assurance by the former Minister of Railways, Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief, I withdrew that Bill. He assured the House that he would bring forward a Bill to amend Section 15 of the RPF Act. The RPF was converted into an armed force in 1986. We opposed it tooth and nail. But that Act was amended and recognition to the Association was withdrawn. They are fighting for its restoration. We are also asking for it.

When two Members from the former ruling party, Congress (I), namely Sarvashri P.R. Kumaramangalam and Harish Rawat, staged a *dhama* inside the House, the whole House supported their demand. Then, the former Railway Minister, Shri Janeshwar Mishra, during the Prime Ministership of Shri Chandra Shekhar, announced that the Government had decided to grant recognition to the RPF Association.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, it is a very important issue. The Leader of the Opposition, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and everybody else will also agree with me.

In spite of all this, the matter is still pending. The Minister of Home Affairs also convened a meeting. I was there. The Minister of Railways and the Minister of Water Resources were also there.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : All of us supported it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : When the House is unanimous, I think, there should not be any objection to grant recognition to the RPF Association. I request the Minister of Railways, the Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister of Law to take an initiative and grant recognition to the RPF Association. I request the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee also to support my demand.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Shrimati Rita Verma and myself have given a notice on privileges. The hon. Speaker, had said that he would give his ruling today.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Speaker will give his ruling now. It is not in my knowledge. The matter is with him.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He will give his ruling today.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have allowed him to speak. Please let him speak.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please let him speak first. I have allowed him.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of giving right to the Railway Protection Force Personnel to form an association has come up several times in the House. Members belonging to different Parties have lent their support to this demand. The Railway Protection Force personnel are railway servants.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You say that you also support it.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Yes, Sir. As per Section 10 of the RPF Act, and Section 3(7) of the Indian Railways Act, they are railway servants for all purposes. They are also civil servants for all purposes, within the meaning of the Article 301 of the Constitution, as per Section 9 of the RPF Act, Railway Servants Conduct Rules, 1966, and the Railway Servants Disciplinary and Appeal Rules, 1968. Besides, several other rules are made applicable to the RPF personnel. Thus, they are governed by the same rules as other railway servants. There is no valid reason to

deny them the right to form an Association. This demand has been made several times earlier also. Prior to 1985, for more than a decade, they had their Association. Therefore, it is high time to reconsider the matter. They do not have anything to do with law and order. They are not a police force or a force deployed on the borders of the country. They are meant exclusively to protect the properties of Railways. They are the railway employees and they should have a right to form an association. I request the Government, the hon. Home Minister is here, and also the Railway Minister through the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, to grant them the fundamental right to form an association without any further delay.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : For a minute, please let him speak. You speak thereafter.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your name is not there. Now it is over. The entire House is supporting this cause.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Not on this issue. Yes, name is there.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the august House was unanimous on the issue raised by Shri Basudeb Acharia, but no favourable action has been taken in this regard. The hon. Home Minister is present here. The Act relating to conferring the status of Para-Military Force on the R.P.F. should be repealed. The R.P.F. personnel should be allowed to form a Union and they should be placed at the disposal of the Railways.

Their Jurisdiction should also be expanded. They only protect the property. They should also be deployed to check train dacoities and protect the life of passengers. The hon. Home Minister is sitting here. He should also take the initiative. The R.P.F. have become a para-Military Force. They will have to take an initiative in this regard. When all of them were on the other side they supported this demand. Now when they are sitting on this side they can take a decision. Merely leaving it to the Railway Minister will not do, therefore, immediate action should be taken on whatever Shri Basu Deb Acharia has said.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to speak on a matter of utmost public importance. The Central Coalfields Limited has a selected Dhori colliery where there is a coal handling plant in which 162 workers are working ever since the setting up of the plant till date, have not been made permanent even after lapse of two and a half years, while

their counterparts numbering more than 200 and working in like manner in the Sallery pond of Kathara colliery have been made permanent, likewise in Jarandi siding, more than 150 workers working merely as loaders have also been made permanent. Therefore, through you I would like to make a request that the workers working in the selected Dhori coal handling plant may also be made permanent and they should be made to perform only such work as are officially prescribed for them instead of any type of cleansing or other works ... (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have 43 names, let Mr. Sharma speak first.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (JAMMU) : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you yourself are well aware of the conditions prevailing in Jammu-Kashmir. There are at least two lakh educated unemployed youths there. Their names are registered with the Employment Exchanges there. Out of them, many persons are doctors, engineers, graduates, PhDs and a number of matriculates. There is no large factory in Jammu-Kashmir, nor any Government undertaking, nor our youths have been able to get their due in the Government of India services. I would like to urge upon the Union Govt. to take special measures to provide employment to them in the Indian Forces, para-military forces and in its other departments and undertakings in view of the present chaos in Jammu-Kashmir and the anti-social elements out to mislead our youths.

The Jammu-Kashmir branch of the Akhil Bhartiya Dalit Sahitya Akadami had submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Social Welfare a year ago to provide coaching to the children belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the I.A.S and I.P.S. Exams. The proposal is lying here. I wish that the proposal be accepted to enable those children in the I.A.S. and I.P.S. exams and serve the nation. Therefore I would request you to inspire the Government of India to give clearance to the proposal submitted by Akhil Bhartiya Dalit Sahitya Akadami.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, four days ago, four foreign citizens came to the State Bank of India branch in Bhagalpur district to encash their travellers' cheques. The employees there noticed some lacunae therein. When they started scrutinising them, the foreigners escaped through the bank's bathroom windows. Two persons were arrested. It was found out that they were the secret agents of the I.S.I. Incidence of counterfeit currency notes, forged travellers' cheques and I.S.I. activities have increased to such an extent in Bihar that its entire area bordering Nepal has become terrorist infested. We had requested the Home Minister also, the Bihar Government has also made a representation which says that the I.S.I. activities have increased so much that the entire area has become sensitive. We all are concerned about it. The way I.S.I. activities are growing in Bihar makes us fear that the situation