

This matter was raised in the National Committee for the 50th Year of Indian Independence that a few lines of an inspiring speech of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose be played on that historic occasion.

I would urge upon the Government to include a brief speech of Netaji. We shall be doing ourselves an honour if we do so...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : The entire House is with Shrimati Krishna Bose ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Can I finish? Let me finish.

We know we have been very lucky. We had a galaxy of leaders during our Independence struggle.

But I would maintain that Gandhiji, Netaji and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru were the three great leaders of our Independence Movement who were a class apart. So, we would like to hear their voices on that night. To leave one would be an unfortunate and glaring omission.

Thank you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think the whole House has already joined her by the acclamation. By acclamation, everybody has joined her. So, I do not think any addition is needed.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : Sir, through you, I would like to invite the attention of the Government and the whole House to the agitation taken up by the bank employees of the country. The Bank Officers' Associations and the bank employees' unions representing more than 13 lakhs of workmen in the country are undertaking a "Parliament March" today.

May I remind your honour that under your able leadership when you were the Labour Minister of India in 1993, an agreement was signed between the IBA and the Workers Union?

12.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The PBA which is representing the management of the banks in the country and the officers associations and the various unions had signed an agreement in 1993. This agreement was implemented as far as the Public Sector Banks were concerned. But this agreement, which is applicable to the Scheduled Commercial Banks of this country, is not being implemented. It is a gross violation on the part of the Government or on the side of the management. An agreement which was signed between the unions and the management in the presence of the Government is not being implemented even after four years! The year 1986 was decided as the effective period for pensionary benefits. But the people who retired in the last ten years

are waiting for their pensionary benefits. This is not being implemented. Today, it is only a token strike. They were already on strike in July. The entire workmen of the banks in the country have called a general strike on 28th and 29th of August. All these representations are falling into deaf years. It is very unfortunate that the Government is not taking a decision, the Government is reluctant to implement the decision taken in Tripartite Conferences. So, Sir, the entire financial sector of this country will come to a grinding halt if the situation is allowed to continue like this. There is a gross omission and negligence on the part of the Government.

So Sir, through you, I would request the Government to take a decision as early as possible to implement the settlement arrived at between the workmen of the banks and the IBA. The Private Sector Banks in the country may please be allowed, may please be permitted or please be granted the pensionary benefits as per the agreement.

There is also one more thing. The Government is now thinking of starting the Local Area Banks. So, the Gramin Banks, the Cooperative Banks, the Nationalised Banks, the Scheduled Commercial Banks and the entire banking industry is in a mood of agitation. It is quite unfortunate that the Government is keeping quiet on this issue. There is an agreement. It is not being implemented. So, I would request the Government to come forward to implement this agreement and redress the grievances of the bank employees in this country

[*Translation*]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : I have also given notice on it today.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble Defence Minister to a very important issue. He has many times stated that our armed forces are fully capable to teach a lesson to Pakistan. I have just returned from Jammu. From Kathua to Chhamb — a border line stretching upto 150 kms. people are fleeing, leaving behind their homes and hearths. Pakistan has been bombing these areas continuously for last six months. The Defence Minister has said that our armed forces are retaliating the Pakistani army but the truth is that that our mothers sustained injuries while cooking and as many as 40 cattle have been killed as a result thereof.

Scores of people have been injured. Particularly in the Paragwal area which is surrounded on three sides by the river and on the fourth side lies Pakistan, 20,000 population is living in this town at the mercy of Pakistani rangers. The sort of situation created there, people at border are compelled to leave their hearth and homes. I would like you to pay attention to it and give instructions to our armed forces to retaliate Pakistani firing. People are quite agitated as Indian army is not retaliating Pakistani firing. Several villages especially

in Paragwal and border areas of Ranvir Singh Pur, Kathua and Hira Nagar where people are fleeing from their homes. Also there is thousands of acres of land where farmer's can not cultivate and have to sustain great financial loss. As the farmers go into their fields, Pakistani rangers start firing. This has pushed the farmers to starvation. I would like to Defence Minister to pay attention to it and pay compensation to the farmers...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Defence Minister is present here. You should ask him to give reply on it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have spoken to him. Normally several people desire to speak on a particular subject but only that person is called whose name figures in this list.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your name has been included, let him speak.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : This matter pertains to my constituency. I have given a notice on it. Why don't you give me an opportunity to speak on this subject. You can verify my name from the records ...*(Interruptions)*. As I have said earlier also that three border districts of Punchh, Rajouri and Jammu lie in my constituency and am elected from this constituency. As has been said by Shri Chaman Lai Gupta, for about last six months this areas has been witnessing Pakistani firing. The farmers cannot go in their fields nor is the fencing work being undertaken. I have stated it earliar also. I have returned from my constituency a day before. A woman who was working in her field got killed from Pakistani army's bullet a day before. A youth had also got injured before. Score of cattle are being perished. People are unable to work in their fields. They cannot sleep. They are thinking to move to safer places. Either you stop firing or give them convincing reply. You please speak to them. There is hot line between Pakistan and India. Why does not the Prime Minister speak to them on this issue? You speak to them and if they do not agree, then teach them a lesson. The manner in which you have retaliated in Kargil area is indeed appreciable. A large scale infiltration is taking place in Punchh and Rajouri Districts.

Afghani, Sudani and Pakistani terrorists are hiding in the hilly regions of Punchh and Rajouri Districts and have struck many a times. This area had been normal for seven years but now terrorism has spread there also. People living there are good and simple. That area is inhabited by Muslims but people are coming there from outside. Our forces have not been able to check their infiltration. Please pay attention to this problem and respond in a befitting manner.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of firing is concerned, this has not taking place there for the last six months. Firing has been taking place along the border for the last many years. This is

wrong to say that we did not retaliate. We do retaliate and we are retaliating to their firing.

As far the question of sowing of crops by the farmers is concerned, this is true that when firing takes place, it not only poses a problem to the Indian farmers but it poses problem to the farmers of Pakistan too. As the question of talks on the hotline is concerned, we did have talks on that. We talked on this issue and they were asked to immediately stop firing there. They were told during talks that if they would indulge in such nefarious activities, then there would be more firing from outside too. I would like to assure that if they do firing, we would resort to much more firing. But so far as the talks are concerned, these are going on and we want that relations between Hidustan and Pakistan should be amicable and for this reason only we do not want to make any such announcements in the House but we do want to assure that we will retaliate and we will retaliate in such a way that they are made to stop firing on Kargil.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Those who could not sow their crops what the Government does for such farmers? Either the Government should compensate them...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : That is right.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : You say this every time but people are leaving their villages...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Guptaji, Please sit down.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very crucial issue through you.

Truck drivers and truck operatros have to face a lot of difficulties all over the country. They have been put to a lot of harrassment. They have been harrassed a lot in the cases of overloading, driving licences and due to different tax structure in different states. It is a matter of regret that the foodgrains which are sent from the Punjab all over the country, the drivers who transport the foodgrains all over the country, they are robbed on their way, they are robbed of their money and even then their case is not registered. If a dacoity takes place in any train, we talk about that and if any other thing happens as such, we discuss that but many a truck driver are killed and looted everyday but we do not talk about them. I think that there should be amendments in the All India Vehicle Act. A truck costs seven lakh rupees and its capacity is of ten tonnes. A tractor costs two lakh rupees and it has also a capacity of ten tonnes. If the looting capacity ranges from 14 to 15 tonnes, tax structure is uniform for the entire country and where trucks are manufactured, it would be better, if tax is levied at the door or factory itself. Tax levied for use of National Highways should also be uniform. Due to these problems, truck drivers feel harrassed. I want to draw attention of the Government towards the difficulties being