

Title: Need to postpone all the examinations scheduled for Sunday 23 April, 2000 (Easter Sunday).

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (CALICUT): Sir, I would like to raise an important matter. Sundays are public holidays not only in India, but also in the whole world. The coming Sunday, being the Easter Sunday, the Christian community is celebrating it all over the world. Unfortunately, some banking examinations are to be conducted this Sunday, that is, 23rd April. I request the Government to intervene in the matter and give instructions to the authorities to postpone all the examinations which are to be conducted on 23rd April, that is, Easter Day, celebrated by the Christian community.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Sir, I have given a notice on this issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes, you have given a notice. You will have to just associate yourself with that, in just one sentence.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I will make only one sentence. Easter Day is one of the most important functions as far as Christians are concerned. It is the Day of the resurrection of the Christ that is being celebrated all over the world and in India also, by all the Christians. On that Day, BSRB is going to conduct examination for Probationary Officers in the State Bank of India. The Postal Department also, under the Ministry of Communications, conducts an examination for selection of some postal service people. They should be postponed lest many of the Christians may not be able to attend the examinations.

This is a very reasonable demand that has been raised by many Christian organisations. Some *dharmas* are also taking place. So, a positive reply by the hon. Minister is sought for in this case. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR): Sir, only a few days are left for Easter Day. We request the hon. Minister to convey the views to the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am calling only those who have given their names.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I request the hon. Minister to convey this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do you want the hon. Minister to react or not?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI): Sir, it is an emotional issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do you want the hon. Minister to intervene? Shri Jos, he is ready to react.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, this Sunday is Easter Sunday and no examination should be allowed to be held on that day. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do you not want the hon. Minister to react?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO : We want to support the demand. That is all. ...*(Interruptions)*

13.00 hrs.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I have brought it to the notice of the hon. Minister. The Minister for Banking has agreed that he would do something, but so far nothing has been done.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, the hon. Members have drawn the attention of the Government to some examinations to be held by BSRB and Postal Department on 23rd April, *i.e.* on Easter day. Normally, the examinations are held on Sundays in order to facilitate the candidates to appear in them. But this being an Easter Sunday, the hon. Members want that the examinations should be postponed. Apart from conveying the hon. Members' views, I will talk to the authorities concerned to try my level best to get the examinations postponed. I would request the hon. Members to give me some more details about this matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members will get a chance if they do not disturb the proceedings. I am allowing everybody.

...(Interruptions)

श्री प्रमोद महाजन; उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, ज़ीरो ऑवर में पहले तो सब अपने आपको एसोसिएट करते हैं लेकिन जब अपनी टर्न आती है तो फिर बोलते हैं। इससे बाकी लोगो को मौका नहीं मिलता।

श्री श्रीप्रकाश जायसवाल (कानपुर); उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, असंवैधानिक कदमों से सदन स्वतः ही एक्शन में आ जाता है।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am watching all those Members who are interrupting. They will not get a chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)