

Title: Demanded a statement regarding a multi-crore scam involving employees' provident fund and deposits of people in cooperative banks.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a multi-crore scam has been added to the series of scams we are facing and the latest one involves the employees' provident fund and the deposits of the common people in a number of co-operative banks, both rural and urban.

Sir, there are 2,500 employees' provident funds which are in the exempted category and the total amount under these 2,500 exempted bodies is of the order of Rs. 30,000 crore. Already, how the provident fund money of Seamen's Provident Fund has been siphoned off and defrauded by some people in the name of investment in Government securities has been revealed. There is an apprehension throughout the country among millions and millions of employees and workers as to how safe their money can be, particularly because of the physical transactions in respect of investments in the Government securities.

After the 1992 scam, the JPC recommended that there should be a switch over to the D-MAT form. In the equity market, it had been done, but in the 'bond' market, till today, it is being allowed, particularly in the cooperative sector. The Government owes an explanation to this House. Let a statement be given covering all the aspects of the scam. The House has a right to constitute a body, if necessary, to look into the new multi-crore scam.
