

Delhi which was known as the safe place has now become a place where people feel themselves insecure and reason in only that Delhi has not its police force.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, reservation system for the backward classes in several states and particularly in Kerala is under serious threat. As we all know, the courts' insistence of the so-called 'creamy layer' is destructive of the entire system of reservation for the backward classes. There is a great tension. There is an agitation that is building up and the difficulties are coming up.

It is necessary that the Government take note of this tension - this agitation - and the fact that the introduction of the so-called creamy layer will be destructive of the entire system of backward classes in the various states, particularly in Kerala, as I have said, which the backward classes have been having for the past so many years.

Now, from Kerala, a representative morcha is coming to the Parliament tomorrow. I, therefore, rise 24 hours in advance so that the Government may prepare a statement, come before the House with that statement and let us know by tomorrow what the Government hopes to do, what measures it wants to take, including legislation, if necessary, including amendment to the constitution, in order to protect the system of reservations as it is in existence in several States.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Hon'ble Dy. Speaker, Sir today thousand of employees of rural banks are demonstrating in Delhi. Their procession is coming from Red Fort to Jantar Mantar, this Government is adopting the policy of discrimination against the employees of rural banks continuously. The National Tribunal Commission gave its award that they would be given salaries after removing the disparity. Today recommendations of the 6th Pay Commission have been implemented in all banks and they got the arrears from 1995 but for rural banks they make excuses that they are running in loss. Therefore, I request you that 11 banks out of 27 nationalised banks of central Government are also running in loss and inspite of it increased salary in being paid to their employees removing the pay disparity.

I request that employees of rural banks may be given pay equivalent to that of nationalised banks after removing the pay disparity as these workers are serving the villages actually and exercising their duties in right sense. Today they are demonstrating here. The hon'ble Minister of Finance may talk to them... (Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Dy. Speaker, Sir, I only request that hon'ble Minister of Finance may consider over this matter. The issue of

rural banks is pending for many years. It would be better if Minister of Finance solves this problem after paying due attention to it... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, today about 30,000 banks employees, including those of the Regional Rural Banks, have come to Delhi. They are agitating against the setting up of local banks which was announced by the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech. Already licences for setting up of three such banks have been issued. The unions of these banks have formed the United Forum of Bank Unions. They have come together with the employees of the Regional Rural Banks. They are demanding that local and private banks should not be set up. They are against privatisation of banks.

Sir, the employees of the Regional Rural Banks have been demanding, since a long time, for a parity in their wages. Why should there be any discrimination against them? Why should the pay scales of the employees of the Rural Banks be less than those of the employees of commercial banks?... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You support the issue and the matter should end there.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, already the National Wages Tribunal has given its award on this and it has been mentioned that there should be equal pay for equal work and there should be parity in the wages. But in spite of that, after conclusion of six bipartite wage settlements three years before, this has not been extended to the employees of the Rural banks. Their wages have not been revised upto now. We have been raising these issues of the Rural Banks, the privatisation and opening up the insurance sector persistently.

Sir, today 30,000 bank employees have come to Delhi. We are demanding that there should not be any privatisation and the local banks should not be set up... (Interruptions) The wages of the employees of the Regional Rural Banks should be revised, as per the sixth bipartite settlement, as was done in the case of the employees of the commercial banks.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : (Monghyr) : Mr. Dy. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an important question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I would call your name. Let me say for a minute.

(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : The Award may be implemented.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Lodha ji, just a minute, first let me say. You also support it, right. I would like to