

**Title:** Urged the Government to withdraw the instruction given to the Chairmen of the United Commercial Bank, the United Bank of India and the Indian Bank, and extend the wage revision to the employees of these banks.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGHLY): Sir, through you, I shall draw the attention of this august House and the attention of the Government to the fact that today thousands and thousands of employees belonging to the United Commercial Bank, the United Bank of India and the Indian Bank have gone on strike. The reason is this. There was a joint decision taken sometime back in the first week of March. But, subsequently, on 16<sup>th</sup> March, the Finance Ministry has sent an instruction to the Chairmen of these three Banks saying that till a decision was taken on the Verma Commission Report, the joint decision would never be implemented. It is indicative of the Government's thinking about the Verma Commission Report. The Verma Commission's Report is not available to Members of Parliament. So far, we know that the Verma Commission has suggested that these Banks should be closed and pending closure, the wages of these employees should be freezed for five years or, otherwise, the VRS, as an option, should be given to them. In the same breath, the Finance Minister during his Budget speech assured that these Banks should be allowed to continue as public sector banks with all their public sector character. But, simultaneously, we do find that on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March, an instruction was given to the Chairmen of these three banks saying that the wage agreement that has taken place should not be implemented in their case; there should be 25 per cent reduction in employment in these banks through VRS or, as an alternative, 25 per cent wage reduction should be there immediately. So, the employees of these three Banks are quite agitated.

The Government is saying one thing and the Finance Minister is saying another thing. The hon. Finance Minister is saying that the public sector banks should be strengthened and that their market capitalisation should be arranged. Simultaneously, the hon. Finance Minister is giving instruction to the Chairmen not to implement the decisions regarding 12.5 per cent increase in the wages. It is a very serious matter and the Government should take note of it to see that the instruction is withdrawn. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia has also given notice on the same subject. So he can also associate himself with Shri Rupchand Pal.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Thousands and thousands of employees of three banks, namely, Union Bank of India, Union Commercial Bank of India and Indian Bank are on strike today against the discriminatory attitude of the Government of India. The Ministry of Finance has sent instructions that the wage agreement which was there, first with the officers of the nationalised banks with Indian Banking Association (IBA), then on 27<sup>th</sup> March with three unions of nationalised banks with IBA should not be extended to the employees of three banks, namely, UCO Bank, UBI and Indian Bank. This is nothing but to implement the recommendations of the Verma Commission Report in regard to these three banks. This Committee has suggested that these three banks should be closed and that there should not be any wage agreement. Against this discriminatory attitude and undemocratic decision with regard to the instruction by the Government, the employees are on strike.

I urge upon the Government that the instruction, which was sent by the Ministry of Finance, should be withdrawn and the wage revision, which has been implemented in respect to other banks, should also be extended to the employees of these three banks.

Thank you.