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Title: Reported Nationwide strike by employees and officers of Rural Banks of India on 28.02.2009.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): While placing the Interim Budget in the Lok Sabha, at that time, there was also a report of the Standing Committee on Empowerment of Women, which said that the nationalized banks had not followed the guidelines of the RBI in disbursement of loans at the rate of five per cent to SHGs, especially to women.

But the RRBs are also providing loans at the rate of more than five per cent. So, the All India RRB Employees' Association, representing a majority of both the officers and the employees has consistently been demanding since 1978, that there should be a National Rural Bank of India at the apex level, exclusively for giving rural and agricultural credit which will be answerable to Parliament.

AIRRBEA has taken a massive mass campaign programme up to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009 for the formation of NRBI, delinking from the sponsor banks, opening of rural branch of each block headquarters with mobile branches for all the villages supported by adequate staff through recruitment and promotion without any bar.

The problem of disbursement of loan especially in the remote areas of Bihar and North East India, where there is no bank. In this situation, the RRBs have proved beyond that their superiority in the rural banking area with a unique blend of the cooperatives and professional acumen of commercial banks. [\[p19\]](#)

I urge upon the Government to provide Self Help Groups, especially to women all over the villages of India, so as to make them self-reliant. In real terms that will be the 'Bharat Nirman'. So, the Government should open RRBs in every block and village. This is my earnest request to the Government.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: At the moment, nobody from the Panel of Chairmen is present in the House. I would, therefore, request Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy, since his name was also there in the List of Panel of Chairmen in the last Lok Sabha to come and preside over the proceedings of the House.

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(Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy *in the Chair*)