

Very valuable constitutional and basic rights of farmers in some parts of India, especially in Kerala are being violated by the actions of some people to grab the cultivations of farmers. In Kerala recently, an agitation was launched under the auspices of a party there; and the party which is ruling Kerala is lending all support to that grabbing activity. It is barbarian activity. When the cultivations of farmers become ripe, they find that some people, without any respect for law and order, forcibly enter the lands of farmers and cut off the cultivations completely.

Sir, lakhs and lakhs or crores and crores of amounts have been lost by several farmers in the recent past by an agitation which has been taken up by some people on behalf of the ruling party there. I am raising this matter here because it is a very basic constitutional issue. I want to know whether the farmers are also entitled to the protection of the Constitution of India. It is a very very pitiable situation where the Government of India is looking as a silent spectator. The Government is not taking any action. The police is only standing and giving all support to the grabbers and the cultivation of the farmers are being removed completely. A lot of damage is being caused. I would suggest that Parliament should take this into cognizance and the Government of India should take some action because this is an action which is cutting at the roots of the basic constitutional issue as far as the poor farmers are concerned.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : Sir, though Shri Chacko has raised the general problem of bank employees as such, I would like to draw your attention first and then the attention of the House to a particular problem of the Gramin Bank employees. In 1987, on the orders of the Supreme Court, a National Industrial Tribunal was set up with Justice Obul Reddy as the Chairman and that Tribunal recommended parity of wages along with the sponsored banks. The same was confirmed by an Equalization Committee headed by Shri Kotaiah. The Government had issued orders in 1991 for providing parity but in 1992, without any provocation, the Government referred the matter to the Reserve Bank of India which constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Mahalik who recommended separate pay scales for these employees. In protest, the employees have gone to the court; the Karnataka High Court has given a stay order on this matter and the employees are agitating now for parity with the employees of the sponsored banks. I request the Government to look into their grievances and stick to their earlier decision.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards the deteriorating law and order situation in Delhi. In the matter of crimes, Delhi is number one in the whole

country. If you go through the statistics of 1996, you will see that 59,871 heinous crimes were registered. The day before yesterday in Kalyan Vihar, a posh colony, in my constituency, five intruders entered the second floor of a building. They ransacked the house, took-off jewellery of ladies, collected all the money and slipped away unnoticed and that too in a broad-day light at 4.30 p.m. This is not only a case of Kalyan Vihar. In Mukherjee Nagar which also falls under my constituency, a dacoity took place. The dacoits could not be traced so far. In the same way some persons entered the first floor in Panjabi Bagh also but have not been traced till date. One shopkeeper was murdered in broad day light on main road in Roop Nagar. Killers were identified, their vehicle number is also known but they could not be apprehended as yet. At present, Delhi Police is under the direct control of Ministry of Home Affairs. Delhi Government has nothing to do with it. We level allegations against the Delhi Government that crimes are on increase in Delhi. But Ministry of Home Affairs now has to see whether it can check these crimes or not. If after any dacoity we try to contact the Police-Commissioner of Delhi, we are unable to trace him even in two days. He is not prepared to talk on telephone. The Commissioner of Police is not prepared to visit the areas where dacoity take place. God knows whether Home Minister comes to know about these incidents or not. The new Police Commissioner or the Home Minister has not convened even a single meeting so far with the seven elected Members of Parliament of Delhi.

The situation of Delhi is so horrible. We all the Members of Parliament live in Delhi. As long as Delhi Police remains under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs and this Government continue an indifferent attitude towards them, the Government of Delhi will be helpless. If the Government of Delhi cannot transfer a person and cannot hold the meetings, then you can imagine how the crimes in Delhi have increase.

During the last three months there have been incidents of theft of 3,133 vehicles, 326 cases of loot, 1247 houses were robbed off and the Delhi Police have hardly solved about 20 percent of these cases.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today lotteries and illegal liquor is being sold in connivance with Delhi Police and this is being sold under the nose of Ministry of Home Affairs. I would like that a special discussion should be held in the House in this regard. The Ministry of Home Affairs should ensure that either Delhi Police be transferred to the National Capital Territory of Delhi or the Ministry of Home Affairs should explain that who is responsible for these crimes.

The number of cases of Kidnapping has increased by 88 per cent cases of rape and molestation have also increased by 44 and 33 percent respectively and Ministry of Home Affairs is doing nothing. The union Ministers live in Delhi and their residences are in Delhi.

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