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Title : Strike by the employees of Public Sector and Private Sector Banks.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I rise to draw the attention of the government, particularly the hon. Minister of Finance, to the two-day strike of nearly ten lakh bank employees throughout the country by all the trade unions, irrespective of party affiliation. This is due to the negative attitude of the management, that is, the Indian Bankers' Association, which had earlier given a commitment to the workers for 17.5 per cent increase in salaries and wages, which had given a commitment that there will be a pension scheme for nearly four lakh employees, and they had given a commitment that there will be compassionate appointments for the people in the whole of the country. After giving that commitment, the management has withdrawn from that commitment. This has never happened in negotiations in the banking sector. Every three years, there is negotiation. This is the most unusual, and since it is unusual, therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the House to this issue.

The main dispute is with regard to pension. In order to give a second option to four lakh employees, there is a need for Rs. 17,000 crore; Rs. 11,000 crore is available from the Provident Fund Reserve, and for the remaining Rs. 6,000 crore, the employees have agreed to share and contribute not less than Rs. 1800 crore. The management had also agreed on compassionate appointments. The agreement was in the offing; only drafting and signing was not done, and it was almost ready. At that point of time, the management suddenly said that they could not give them 17.5 per cent, it had to be 15 per cent, and the next day, they said that it would be 13 per cent. Ultimately, they have come around, I must admit. But the main question, that is, regarding the payment of pension which has been agreed upon, now the management is saying that every year, the liability of the pension will have to be calculated and then the scheme will be invoked. This has never happened in the whole country.

Therefore, I appeal to you and to the Government and to the Minister of Finance to ensure that this confrontation between bank employees and Government does not escalate because as I apprehend, I do not speak for them, that this strike may escalate and there may be prolonged agitation. If there is a prolonged agitation, the economic system, particularly the financial system, will be in jeopardy. That will affect our economy which is already afflicted by decline of the growth of economy and the GDP. Therefore, there cannot be any luxury on the part of anyone to enter into a confrontation with the biggest financial sector of the country because this has never been the history. Always, the management and Unions have sorted out their issues; there was no need for a confrontation, and there is no need for a confrontation now.

Therefore, I wish the Government takes a proactive policy in order to settle the dispute, in order to create a congenial atmosphere, in order to ensure that the bipartite agreement which has been pending for long is sorted out, and industrial peace is restored to the benefit of the whole country.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, I have also given a notice on the same issue.

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes, I am permitting to associate your name. You can send your name to the Table and you will be associated with what Shri Gurudas Dasgupta said.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : While associating myself with what Shri Gurudas Dasgupta has said, I urge upon the Government to come forward, the Finance Minister is here, he should respond. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: On everything that is said during 'Zero Hour', the Government does not respond. You know that. Let other Members speak.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER:

Shri Nama Nageswara Rao,

Shri Saidul Haque,

Shri M.B. Rajesh,

Shri P.K. Biju and

Shri A. Sampath are allowed to associate on the matter raised by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

Only what Shri Sajjan Verma is saying will go on record.

*(Interruptions) â€¦ **

श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव (मैनपुरी): अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं अपने को इस मुद्दे से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदया आप अपना नाम संबद्ध करने के लिए भेज दीजिए।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं अपने को इस मुद्दे से संबद्ध करती हूँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदया : आप भी अपना नाम भेज दीजिए।

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Kindly take your seat.

â€¦ (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not disturb. Let other Members also speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is a very serious matter....*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: I know it is a very serious matter. He has made his point.

Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) â€¦ **