

**Title:** Requests the Finance Minister to prevent the proposed bank strike on 25th and 26th February 1999, throughout the Nation.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Finance Minister to reports regarding strike by banking employees on 25th and 26th throughout the nation. Banking business is a day to day affair of our life and the banking employees are going on strike. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to inform the House about the steps that the Government have taken to prevent the strike from taking place tomorrow and day after tomorrow because we will be put to great difficulties? The employees are on the war path. Not only the officers but even the employees are going on strike. The entire banking system, including money transactions, will be paralysed. The Finance Minister is going to present the Budget after two days. So, when the Budget is being presented, there is going to be a strike, and that too by the banking employees. So, I would urge the Finance Minister to make a statement in the House, prevent the strike and not to make it a reality because otherwise we will be put to great difficulties. I hope, he will rise to the occasion and give a reply to our satisfaction.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, I have also given a notice on the same subject.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Basudeb Acharia, your name is there. You will get an opportunity.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : My notice is on the same subject, Sir.

Sir, for two days the entire banking industry will be paralysed ...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, the Finance minister is here. Let him respond.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhkrishnan, Shri Basudeb Acharia has also given a notice on the same subject.

>SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, there have been a number of meetings between IBA and all the unions of the banking industry, but no solution has come out. The employees of the banking industry are demanding increase in their pay and wages. The revision of their pay and wages is due for the last one year but the Government has not taken any action in this regard, except a few meetings which were held between IBA and the unions of the banking industry.

Sir, after this strike for two days, they have again called for a strike for an indefinite period if this issue is not resolved. As the Finance Minister is here, I demand that he should give a statement that he would take urgent steps so that this strike by the banking employees is avoided and averted, their demand is met and the issue of wage revision is settled forthwith. ....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, do not get up every now and then.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, both the Ministers are here. The Finance Minister is here and he should assure the House that he will take steps to resolve this issue. ....(Interruptions) Sir, when the Finance Minister is here, you can direct the Finance Minister to take steps to resolve this issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: How can I direct the Finance Minister? He is sitting here. If he wants to react, he can react. I cannot direct him.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, you can direct him. ....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, I cannot direct him.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, the banking industry will be paralysed for two days, tomorrow and day after tomorrow. ....(Interruptions) Sir, he should respond. ....(Interruptions) Sir, the Finance Minister is here. He should respond.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ashok Argal.

... (Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (MADURAI): It seems as if the Finance Minister has lost interest in the Indian economy. It is a major strike that is going to take place. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, what is this? This a non-functioning government which we are having here. ....(Interruptions) Sir, the Finance Minister should respond.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He is here. If he wants to react, he can react.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He is here. You should direct him to react.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Can I direct him to react?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He is not responding even.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What can I do if he does not want to react?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :The banking industry is going to be paralysed for two days and the Government is silent. Sir, the Minister should respond. ....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seat?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Both the Ministers are here. ....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seat?

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He is not prepared to react. How can I direct him?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We are having a non-functioning Government here. The Government is sleeping when the entire banking industry is going to be paralysed. The Government is not responding. ....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please resume your seats. I am on my legs.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ashok Argal.