

not be held. An all party team should be sent there, a meeting of Consultative Committee should be held and statement should be made in the House.

[English]

SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG (Shillong): I want to draw the attention of the Government about the case of Scheduled Caste Christians. These Scheduled Caste Christians consisting of more than 10 million members who are residing in all parts of India are victims of caste apartheid. The discriminations goes against the ideals of human rights, secularism and equal justice. In the year 1990, a Bill was brought forward by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, the then Welfare Minister wherein the Constitutional Order was amended to include neo Buddhists. At that time, I remember, 60 amendments from different Members of the House belonging to different parties were brought in asking the Government to include those SC converted Christians also in the Amendment Order. Hon. Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji promised to bring another Bill. However, that was only a dream.

In the year 1991, about 290 Members have signed a memorandum and submitted to the Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao requesting for equal justice to the Scheduled Caste Christians. It is very unfortunate that the Constitutional (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 wanted that the Scheduled Castes should belong to only the religion. Those communities originally belonging to Scheduled Caste who have been converted into Christianity lose their statutory right. From year to year, assurances have been given that a Bill will be brought forward to include SC Christians also in the Constitutional Order of 1950. But till today nothing has been done on this. Ten million people are anxiously waiting to get equal, social justice.

I request the Government, through you, that a Bill should be brought forward in this Session of Parliament to satisfy these 10 million Christians.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): We support this demand and we want response from the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI UPENDRANATH VERMA (Chatra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 100 coal mines in Bihar have been closed, but their pitheads have not been sealed. Illegal mining and smuggling are going on there in full swing. I would, therefore, like to demand that those coal mines should again be started, so that one lakh persons can be provided employment there. (Interruptions)

12.13 hrs.

RE: SETTING UP OF NATIONAL RURAL BANK OF INDIA

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Baran): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thousands of employees of regional rural banks are sitting on dhama.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We have just nagurated it. (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Their demand is that a National Rural bank of India should be set up. The regional rural banks are running in deficit, but they are not to be blamed for it. The money deposited by the villagers in regional rural banks is deposited in their sponsor banks. These sponsor banks get the benefit of it, but the regional rural banks do not get anything. Earlier, it was decided that 35 percent of the amount total advances to be made by regional rural bank, will be given by the sponsor bank, but this is not being done. On one hand, the sponsor bank is taking the benefit of the deposits, while on the other hand, it is not fulfilling its commitment. The regional rural banks have limited areas, but their work is of a very vast nature.

12.15 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

The money is deposited by small depositors while these banks are required to help the farmers and workers. That is why, these banks are running in loss. So, they are demanding that a National Rural Bank should be set up to ensure better management. I would like to request the Government through you, that a bill regarding setting up of National Rural Bank should be introduced in this session itself, so that the credit system prevalent in the villages can be strengthened.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): A Committee has to be constituted for this purpose. I recommend for setting up of National Rural Bank of India. It is pending with the government for the last many years. Government is not taking decision. Thousands of rural bank employees are now in Dharan in Constitution club. Just now they raised Dharan. Thousands from all over India are there and they are demanding that National Rural Bank of India should be constituted and, for this purpose, a Bill be brought in this Session because the Committee which was constituted for this purpose has recommended this. The Rural Bank is doing very good work for the rural artisans and rural poor peasants. This organisation should be strengthened and restructured and National Rural Bank of India should be constituted and a Bill be brought in this Session for this purpose.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): I have given notice exactly on this.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): We had met the then prime Minister Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh twice in connection with the

problems of the employees of rural banks. Later, we met Shri Narsimha Rao also. Both the times. Both the Prime Ministers had assured about taking immediate steps for setting up a national rural bank. Not only this, but every time we met Shri Manmohan Singh, he gave assurance to us in this regard. So thousand of employees are working in the rural areas and every time they come here to stage a demonstration. They are sitting outside the Parliament House on dharna today also. The Government is not conscious to this problem. The rural banks are working efficiently in the villages. So, we would like to demand that a Bill should be brought in this session for setting up of a national rural bank, so that this problem can be solved for ever.

[English]

SHRINIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I want just to add a few points for the consideration of the Ministry. The point is we have specialised banks for export and import. We have specialised banks for housing. We have specialised banks for industry. But very strangely, there is resistance about a specialised bank for the rural sector. It is this that has to be considered. That is number one.

The argument seems to be that rural sector, by and large, being the priority sector and the priority sector lending rates being low, a National Rural Bank will not be able to make profit in this activity. That is not true, because the stipulation for all commercial banks is that 40 per cent of their credit should go to the priority sector and, as you know, in the rural areas, nowadays, we are encouraging industries to be established and the National Rural Bank in the rural areas can advance credit beyond 40 per cent to these industries which are coming up there and that would be a source of profit compared to these other commercial banks.

The third aspect is that in the commercial banks, particularly in the urban areas, there is a

large amount of current account. Savings Bank account is very small. The Savings Bank Accounts in the rural banks would have a very large quantum in terms of deposits. For that, they pay interest of only 5.5 per cent or 6 per cent. Therefore, even if they lend to the Priority Sector, they will be able to garner a good deal of money. In any case, they are sitting on a dhama. It is not good for our country that the employees of the Banking Sector should give up their responsibility for the day and come here and sit on a dhama. Therefore, it is possible to negotiate. We draw the attention of the authorities to this issue. Let them negotiate. There are a few weeks to go for this Session. Let them come forward with a Bill for establishing this National Rural Bank of India.

SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR (Mothihari). Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, this assurance was given last time also. The position in rural banks have come to such a pass that its employees are forced to sit on Dhama here. Their demand is that a national rural bank should be set up. The Government perhaps is considering to bring a bill in the current session on it, so that the problems faced by the employees of rural banks can be solved. This will also help in the development of industries in the rural areas. So, I would request the Government that it should pay immediate attention towards setting up of a national rural bank.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to add two more points in it. Firstly, I would like to know what action has been taken by the Government on the report submitted by the Reserve Bank of India in regard to setting up of a national Rural Bank. Secondly, the Finance Minister had also assured in the House that the issue was under consideration and an early decision would be taken, but it is regretful that no decision was taken till now and the employees of rural banks are on strike today and sitting on Dhama. More than 80 thousand employees are demanding that the Government should take an early decision about their future and the proposed

bill should be brought at the earliest.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): The setting up of a National Rural Bank is not only the demand of the employees of the Rural Bank but also it is a demand of the common, rural people. All the Members of Parliament who come from the rural areas probably support this issue cutting across the party lines.

The National Rural Bank has been made an instrument of exploitation by the Commercial Banks. They are exploiting the rural people. They are getting the deposits from the rural areas and passing the money on to the Commercial Banks investing in some other areas. But the money is not being invested in the rural areas. That is the main issue. That is why it is not a demand of the employees alone. It is a demand of the rural people that there should be a bank for them and their money, their deposits at least should be invested for their development. But this money goes to the urban areas; the benefit goes to the urban areas. That is why all of us demand that there should be a National Rural Bank. The Government should immediately come forward with a Bill as far as this issue is concerned.

SHRI F. C. CHACKO (Trenchur): Sir, I support the opinion expressed by Shri Srikanta Jena. Rural Banks have become a part of the Indian rural economy. It is a promise of this Government that a National Bank would be set up. But, unfortunately, a new argument is being advanced now saying that this National Rural Bank will not be viable and it should be merged with the nationalised banks. It is most unfortunate. The Rural Bank has got a separate identity; personality. It is a separate entity. It is meant for catering to the rural economy. The Central Government has made a study and the report is very clear and the Finance Minister has also made this promise in this House and outside. Once the National Rural Bank is merged with other nationalised banks, it cannot perform the

functions expected of it. So, the rural banks have to be integrated into a National Rural Bank. Any delay from the Government's side is unpardonable. Unfortunately, the employees are now pushed to a war-path. I agree with the hon. Members who have expressed in favour of this. We want an assurance from the Government. This is an important matter on which there is near unanimity. So, we want this Government to come out early with decisions so that the National Rural Bank is made a reality. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mohan Singhji, are you speaking about bank agitation?

(Interruptions)

SHRISRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): The entire House is one on this *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there is a confusion, sometimes Chair will err. It is not fair. If calmness is maintained, the Chair may not be allowed to commit any mistake. There was a mistake and probably everybody is fully aware of it.

[Translation]

Are you speaking about bank agitation, Mohan Singhji?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will have another chance.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Ferozpur): I have given notice about the railway system there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those who got the opportunity to speak on the bank agitation, they feel that the Government should respond immediately. Those who could not air their opinion, they want to speak one or two sentences.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): We want to know the Government's response.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: But still there are some hands. I think, it is not fair to shut their mouth.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHETAN P. S. CHAUHAN (Amroha): I support the early formation of the National Rural Bank of India. We have already met the prime Minister., we have had a series of meetings with the Finance Minister. A committee was constituted by the Reserve Bank of India. They have already submitted the report. The National Rural Bank should be formed because it is losing Rs. 1 crore per day. Also the deposits which are there with the regional rural banks are all going to the sponsor banks for which the interest being paid by the nationalised bank is very less. It is only eight per cent whereas the deposits of the regional rural bank is about Rs. 800 crores. Early formation of the National Rural Bank of India will also help the people from rural areas because the credit will come from the regional rural banks to the people in the rural sector. In demand that in this session itself, the Government should come with a Bill for early formation of the Bank.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): I want to highlight one additional fact. It is a problem of the very small industrial units which are working in the rural areas of the country. All the small industrial units are being benefited banks have branches in the rural areas, they never give loans to small industrial units. They have limited their loans up to 15 per cent to the agricultural sector.

There are several lakhs of small industrial units all over the country. I strongly plead for their proper working. According to the Credit Deposit Ratio, only the Rural Banks can help these smaller units. As it has been unanimously recommended by most of the Members of this

House, I plead that a Bill should be brought forward for giving life to the National Rural Bank of India and all steps should be taken in this direction

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The Minister should respond to this

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER May I request the Hon Minister of parliamentary Affairs to respond on this? They want to know about the Government's opinion on the agitation that is going on at the behest of the employees They want to know about the Government's opinion on this matter

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) Employees of what?

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Would you like to say something on this?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA The Minister of Finance is here he should respond

SHRI AHAMED (Manjen) All sections of the House are agitated over this issue and the Minister says, "Employees of What?" The Chair should direct the hon Minister to come out with a statement on this issue (Interruptions)

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA Offhand, I will not be able to react to this situation We will collect the facts and then we will react to it when necessary (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR Sir, the Banking Minister is here (Interruptions)

AN HON MEMBER He is not the Banking Minister

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the house towards a grave issue

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA The Minister for Banking has come now He should respond to it, that is, about a separate National Rural Bank of India

[Translation]

The hon Minister should make a statement in this regard This House unanimously demands that a National Rural Bank of India should be set up All parties are agreed on this issue We have met him several times on this issue The entire House demands that the hon Minister should inform the House about the action being taken by the Government in regard to this issue (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) Two days back, during the Question-Hour, I had replied to the same question The hon Members have again asked me this question My reply is the same as was given earlier

We have referred this matter to R B I for seeking their opinion

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA How many months have passed?

DR ABRAR AHMED Today you want to know, the position I am telling you the same (Interruptions) I shall not divulge the matter for which you are coercing me We have referred this issue to the R B I for eliciting its opinion Soon after receiving its opinion, the Government

will start taking action.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): The Finance Minister has said that RBI's functioning is all wrong. RBI is a bogus organisation according to the Finance Minister. All the difficulties of this country, according to Shri Manmohan Singh, are due to the Reserve Bank of India of which he was the Governor.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): You ask RBI to hand it over to the Government.

[Translation]

DR. ABRAR AHMED: We are expediting it. This case has been referred to the Reserve Bank of India.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: In how many days the opinion from the R.B.I. is likely to be received?

DR. ABRAR AHMED: You should not expect me to oblige you. But if you want to know the reality, I would like to submit that we have referred it to the Reserve Bank of India to give its opinion.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIYA: The entire House is in favour of the bill introduced during the current session.

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA: He is now taking shelter behind RBI.

12.33 hrs.

**RE: LATHI CHARGE IN DELHI ON
STUDENTS OF ALIGARH MUSLIM
UNIVERSITY**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy

Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of this august House to a very serious matter. This matter relates to the Aligarh Muslim University. The House as well as you know that due to the death of two students the situation has been tense there. Students were opened fire direct killing two of them. Therefore, the Government stated that they were going to hold judicial enquiry into it. We have demanded it time and again in the House. Yesterday also. Government promised to take action against those police personnel who were found guilty in Kashmir. In this context you have at least transferred an S.S.P. But we have repeatedly demanded that as long as the S.P. and D.M. are there, the enquiry cannot be conducted properly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday a demonstration was held by the students in front of the residence of the hon. Prime Minister in support of their demands. When they were marching ahead peacefully they were beaten up very badly. The hon. Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Arjun Singh is sitting here. Through you, I want to request him to give reply to it. (*Interruptions*) I know that you can do it. This issue relates to students. Yesterday, students went to the residence of the hon. Prime Minister where they were assaulted very ruthlessly. We met about 25 students at night and came back at 12 O'Clock. And I would like to inform the House that the Chairman, of the Action Committee Dr. S.M. Sarvar Hussain, who is also the convenor of the Action Committee, was beaten up badly. Syed Abrar Chikco, the former Secretary, also received head injuries. The leg of Dr. Abdulla Mannan was broken. Mohammed Israr has been admitted in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. His hand has broken completely. Mohammad Salim was boarded on a van and taken away. He asked the police to arrest him but he was taken away on a van instead. He was not put into jail, he was rather beaten on the way and deserted in injured condition. Shri M.P. Reddy, the Vice President of the All India Institute of Medical Science has also been injured. Dr. Solanki is also injured. Dr. M.M. Anwar Hussain, President, Aligarh University is lying injured.