

tries given by the hon Minister that maximum investment has been made by the United States of America I would like to know whether Government considers it satisfactory? I would also like to know whether Government is in favour of encouraging American investment or discouraging it? What is the intention of the Government in this regard?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI No country is directly linked with foreign investment Which ever country has made investment in our country it has done so under the policy of our Government Therefore it is not our policy to encourage or discourage any country

[English]

Strike by Staff of Bolangir Anchalik Gramya Bank

*783 SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the staff of the Bolangir Anchalik Gramya Bank have been on indefinite strike since 22 March 1990

(b) what are their principal demands

(c) whether their demands include staff benefits which have been approved by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)/State level forum/ Union Government and these benefits are being enjoyed by staff members of other gramya banks of Orissa and other States, and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to fulfil their demands?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported

that a section of the staff of Bolangir Anchalik Gramya Bank, Bolangir (Orissa) had gone on strike from 22 3 90 to press certain demands The strike has been called off on 14 4 90

2 The principal demands made by the Officers Association and staff unions relate to the posting of office bearers of the unions at head office of the bank, provision of bipartite settlement, matters relating to service conditions of messengers, and formulation of transfer policy and its implementation, implementation of promotion policy, reinstatement of suspended staff, implementation of approved benefits such as house building loan, remote area allowance, officiating allowance and group insurance benefit withdrawal of alleged victimisation, proper and scientific management of Bank's funds and personnel, etc

3 Government and NABARD have issued detailed instructions to the Regional Rural Banks from time to time on matters relating to promotions in the RRBs and formulation of service regulations by each Regional Rural Bank It is reported that the demands relating to bad climate allowance as per the rules of Government of Orissa, revised pay scales and revised rates of house rent allowance allowed by the Government of Orissa to its employees, liveries to permanent messengers, housing loans, provision for bipartite forums for recognised workmen unions, release of Dearness Allowance and Additional Dearness Allowance as per the State Government rules etc have been fulfilled The management of the Gramin Bank has also agreed to the regularisation of posts of existing sweeper and water-boys engaged prior to 8 10 84, revision of pay scales in accordance with the decision of the Government of Orissa in respect of their own employees, regular bipartite meeting with the representatives of staff unions, review of cases of suspension and transfers on individual merit etc

4 Norms have also been laid down for the regularisation of the services of messengers working in the Regional Rural Banks

Instructions have also been issued by NABARD with regard to the proper management of funds by the RRBs. The financial position of RRBs which are incurring losses is being monitored by NABARD every quarter and remedial action is suggested to them as well as their sponsor banks.

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the employees of Bolangir Anchalik Gramya Bank have given previous notice for the loss of the bank of the concerned authorities and what is the quantum of loss the bank has sustained due to the strike and is it that in the last financial year the bank has sustained a loss of Rs. 3.75 crores?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI Sir, I am aware that the hon. Member as in the past has taken up the cause of employees of this particular Bank. I can fully appreciate his concern. But I am pleased to inform that the matter has since been settled. This matter was referred—to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court had given a verdict that this should be decided by a tribunal. The tribunal gave its award on 30th April, 1990 which states that the employees will get the pay-scales at the State level—level of the State employees pay as per the State Law up to 31st August 1987. Thereafter they are now treated on par with the pay-scales of other Commercial Banks.

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA Sir, I did not get the reply about the loss sustained by the Bank. In my first question, I have asked whether the Bank has sustained a loss of Rs. 3.75 crores in a single year. I would also like to know whether the Government would consider stopping the procedure of sending deputationists to a bank or from the Parent Bank because the persons who are on deputation are least concerned about the viability of the units, they are more concerned about their own viability and benefits. Will the Government consider this point? Finally, in the reply, the hon. Minister has also stated that the RRBs in the country are incurring losses. They are losing establishments. I would like to know from the hon.

Minister details in this regard because RRBs are having certain constraints to function. Comparing the Commercial Banks, the RRBs are confined to function only to finance small and marginal farmers. So, will the policies of RRBs be changed? Will they be allowed to function as the Commercial Banks are functioning?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI There is no move to change the policy. In fact, the Finance Minister did make a statement on 6th April in this House that there will not be any merger between the RRBs and the Commercial Banks.

SHRIBALGOPAL MISHRA What about the loss of Rs. 3.75 crores sustained in a single year?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI About this information, I will let the Member know exactly later on.

SHRI MANGARAJ MALLIK I was working in the Puri Gramin Bank. I was working there as a Manager. In that bank, there was only one clerk. So, I was working from 10 a.m. till night. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is—disparity in the scales of pay in the RRBs when compared with the other nationalised banks. For this reason, I think the RRBs officers are not doing their work properly. So, the Bank is also sustaining loss. I think the tribunal has given the verdict that their pay-scales should be equal to that of the nationalised banks. What steps the Government are taking to equalise the pay-scales of the officers of RRBs with that of the other nationalised bank employees.

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI This is a good suggestion. We will look into it.

SHRI D. AMAT I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether victimisation is inflicted upon the employees in such banks?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI I am not aware of any victimisation and if there is anything

which has come to the notice of the hon. Member let him take it up separately. We will take necessary action.

DR. VISWANATHAM: Is there any proposal of merging the Rural Banks with the nationalised banks?

MR. SPEAKER: This question relates to the Bolangir Bank. Does the Minister want to reply?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: There is no proposal. In fact, the Finance Minister made a statement in the Lok Sabha on 6th April not accepting the proposal for merger with the nationalised banks.

MR. SPEAKER: Next Question—Q. No. 784 Shri Pyarelal Khandelwal—not present. Q. No. 785—Shri R.N. Rakesh—not present; Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit—not present. Q. No. 786.

SHRIMATISUBHASHINIAL: Sir, under Rule 48, sub-section (3) even though both the Members, who have put the question, are not present here, I would like to put this question.

MR. SPEAKER: At the end.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: At the end. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, at the end.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: It will be a bad precedent.

MR. SPEAKER: But, there is a rule.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not allowed. That is all right.

Now, Shri Jatav.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): There is no restriction under the Monopolies Act against the Minister. Sir, the Monopolies Act should be applicable against the Minister also. He is monopolising the Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: That is the luck of the new Minister.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

Regularisation of Daily Wage Employees belonging to Scheduled Castes in Customs Training Directorate

*786. **SHRI THAN SINGH JATAV:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of daily wage employees belonging to Scheduled Castes have been working as Class IV employees for more than 10 years in the Customs Training Directorate;

(b) if so, the number thereof and the reasons for not regularising them so far; and

(c) when their services are likely to be regularised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

SHRI THAN SINGH JATAV (Bayana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister the number of Class IV employees belonging to Scheduled Castes working in this Training Directorate as compared to Class IV employees belonging to the General Category? What is their percentage?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: 37 casual labourers have been working in the Training Directorate, among them 14 belong to Sched-