

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Sir, a lot has been spoken about the swine flu in Pune and other surrounding areas. I would not like to the 'flu' part of it. My worry is about the panic that has been spread in Pune and surrounding areas. Yes, there is an outburst of epidemic, but, at the same time, there is another outburst of panic and, more than that, rumours. The rumours are so much that everybody in Pune and surrounding areas are scared and afraid about themselves and, more than that, about their children. I appreciate the efforts and the explanation of the Minister. But, apart from controlling the actual epidemic, it is also the responsibility of the Government to control the panic situation and the rumours mills because these have long-standing effect. If you remember, Sir, twelve years ago, there was an epidemic of plague in Surat. More than the disease, it was the rumour that had created a lot of panic all over the country. So, it is the responsibility of both, the State Government as well as the Central Government, to ensure that panic is not created because panic can also pose similar problem like the epidemic. So, I would like to suggest, as the hon. Member has said, use private television, use Government television, radio, public hoarding, railway station announcements to tell the people that they should not get scared and there are enough medicines; there are sufficient number of doctors, and there is a cure to this. If you are able to create that kind of trust and confidence in the minds of people, they will not be worried. Yes, epidemic is there. God forbid, it has happened. But we have to be ready to fight against it. And, if all people, with conscience, come together only then it can happen. My suggestion is that the Government should take the help of the other Ministries also — the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting is sitting here, take her help — and create an atmosphere of confidence among the people. Thank you very much.

Reported construction of Atomic Reactor in Myanmar

श्री वृजभूषण तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, इधर समाचार पत्रों में, विशेषकर आस्ट्रेलियाई समाचार पत्रों में यह प्रकाशित हुआ है कि उत्तर कोरिया के सहयोग से म्यांमार में atomic reactor का निर्माण किया जा रहा है। वहां पर तानाशाही सरकार है। पिछले बीस वर्षों से वहां की लोकतांत्रिक कार्य पद्धति को खत्म कर दिया गया है और वहां की नेता Aung San Suu Kyi को जेल में डाल दिया गया है। पाकिस्तान के जो बदनामशुदा परमाणु वैज्ञानिक हैं, उनके सहयोग से इस atomic reactor का निर्माण किया जा रहा है। उससे दक्षिण एशिया ही नहीं, भारत को भी खतरा है और पूरे एशिया में शांति को खतरा है। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस गंभीर घटनाक्रम पर ध्यान दे और इसके संदर्भ में उचित कार्यवाही करे। धन्यवाद।

Strike by the employees of the Nationalised Banks in the country

श्री आर.सी. सिंह (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण सवाल सदन के समक्ष रखना चाहता हूँ। हमारे भारतीय बैंकों में कल से हड़ताल चल रही है। सारे कर्मचारी और अफसर, United Forum of Bank Union, हड़ताल पर हैं। वे कल भी हड़ताल पर थे और आज भी हड़ताल पर हैं। वे अपने वेतन समझौते की मांग कर रहे हैं कि हमारे वेतन में improvement हो। इसके अलावा वे अपनी pension में improvement की भी मांग कर रहे हैं। महोदय, IBA ने आश्वासन दिया था कि उनके वेतन में 17.9 परसेंट की बढ़ोतरी की जाएगी, लेकिन वे इससे पीछे हट रहे हैं, जबकि दूसरे पब्लिक सेक्टर में 24 परसेंट से

लेकर 40 परसेंट तक वेतन की बढ़ोतरी हुई है। ये बैंक, जो हमारे देश की economy को बचाने में सक्षम रहे हैं, उनके कर्मचारियों के वेतन की बढ़ोतरी में आनाकानी की जा रही है। ये सारे बैंक मुनाफा कमा रहे हैं इसलिए जो बढ़ोतरी होगी, ये उसको वहन करने में सक्षम है। इसके लिए सरकार को अलग से कुछ भी नहीं देना पड़ेगा। इसलिए मैं सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि वह इस संबंध में intervene करे। आज तीन बजे CLC में मीटिंग होने वाली है। मेरा अनुरोध है कि सरकार इसमें पहल करे और उनमें समझौता कराए ताकि उनके वेतन में समुचित बढ़ोतरी हो सके। धन्यवाद।

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, while joining my colleague, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the two day's strike which has been forced upon 11,00,000 bank employees and officers working in 26 nationalised banks and 8 private banks, because of an immature arrogance being demonstrated by the management and the Government. For the last two years, they have been negotiating for the second option to the existing pension scheme, but there is no improvement. They have also agreed to bear the cost partially. They have also been negotiating for improving the scheme of compassionate appointment or *ex-gratia* in lieu that scheme circulated by the management. On both the issues, an understanding was also arrived at. But when talks about the wage revision started, the IBA and the Government went back arrogantly from the understanding arrived at. They had offered 17.5 per cent wage rise, but on the eve of strike they went back to 13 per cent. Now, again, they have come back to 17.5 per cent. I think it is a demonstration of the most irresponsible handling of the industrial relations. In a sector like bank, involving 11 lakh employees and officers, playing a very crucial role in country's economic management, this kind of immature handling is totally unwarranted. At the last moment, again to sabotage the process, they have put some new conditions, imposing a new Pension Scheme for the future employees. They want to make the unions commit what is going to be in future. So, through you, Sir, I request the Government — the negotiation has been slated for today before the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) — that the Government must take a serious attitude, appreciate the yeoman role played by the employees and officers of the banking sector, particularly, in this global crisis situation, and intervene effectively so that their just demand, without any preconditionality, are met. I also request that the understanding earlier arrived at is implemented without any precondition and a respectable wage package is given to them in comparison to other public sector organizations. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Orissa): Sir, these nationalised banks have saved the national economy in the period of global meltdown and recession. Currently, the nationalised banks have given a profit of Rs. 67000 crores and are hardly demanding an amount of about Rs. 5500 crores to Rs. 5600 crores. If you look at the comparative wages of clerks and peons of the Central Government after Sixth Pay Commission vis-a-vis Bank clerks and peons, you will see that the Clerk in the Central Government is getting Rs. 15,000, whereas, a Bank Clerk is getting only Rs. 7600; and a Peon is getting Rs. 11,000 in the Central Government,

whereas, the Bank Peon is getting only Rs. 6,300. So, I think, demanding 20 per cent wage rise is not an injustice.

Sir, as has been already said, the IBA, which had agreed earlier for 17.5 per cent wage high, is now again asking for only 13 per cent wage high, which has created this resentment.

Sir, out of Rs. 6000 crores for pension, the IBA was to contribute around Rs. 4200 crores and Bank employees and officers were to contribute Rs. 1800 crores, which is 6.25 per cent, as 1 per cent works out to Rs. 275 crores. Rs. 1800 crores, which is 6.25 per cent, will be deducted from the current increased wages. Therefore, if 17.5 per cent wage hike is offered and pension cost of employees and officers, i.e., 6.25 per cent is deducted, then wage hike will be only 11.25 per cent, which is less than all earlier settlements, hence not meeting the demands of UFBU.

So, Sir, I request the Government to intervene immediately and make a settlement which is better for the country, better for the employees and which will also send a correct message across the country.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I would like to associate myself with it.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा) : महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with it.

श्री भागीरथी माझी (उड़ीसा) : महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री अवनि राय (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री समन पाठक (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN (Kerala): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with it.

श्री मंगल किसन (उड़ीसा) : महोदय, मैं भी इसका समर्थन करता हूँ।

Cross-border infiltration despite heightened vigil along the international border

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): Sir, it is a matter of great concern that the illegal infiltration continues through the international border despite heightened vigil throughout the border.

In connection with the killing of eight terrorists at separate places in Jammu & Kashmir on Wednesday by the Indian soldiers, I want to draw the attention of the Government that these incidents indicate that if a cross-border infiltration is can take place despite heightened vigil and high-tech fencing of the LoC, the Indo-Bangladesh Border is not a problem for cross-border infiltration! Because the border fencing, floodlight and high watching tower works are yet to completed by the authorities, which may also take another three-four years.