

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 31st July, 1984/9 Sra-
vana 1906 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the
clock, Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Attack on official of Central Bank of India in Madras

•121. SHRI CHATURANAN
MISHRA:†

SHRI M. KALYANA
SUNDAR AM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that an
official of the Gudiyattam "(Madras)
branch of the Central Bank of India
was recently attacked by the youth
who demanded a loan of Rs. 5000
across the counter;

(b) if so, what are the details of
incident;

(c) whether the employees of the
Central Bank of India went on a strike
on the 6th July, 1984 as a protest
against the murderous attack;

(d) whether Government have re-
ceived any memorandum from the
Bank Officer's Organisation in this
regard;

(e) if so, what are the details there-
of; and

(f) what- action has been taken
thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAN-
ARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (f) A
Statement is laid on the Table of the
House.

†The question was actually asked
on the floor of the House by Shri
Chaturanan Mishra.

Statement

(a) to (f) The Central Bank of India
has reported that Shri Perumal, an
unemployed youth, had applied for a
loan of Rs. 25,000 under the Self-Em-
ployment Scheme for setting up a
fertilizer and pesticides business. The
District Industries Centre had recom-
mended the case in the Keelalathur
Branch of the Bank on 25-6-1984. The
case could not, however, be entertained
on the ground that Shri Perumal be-
longed to a village which was within
the command area of Gudiyattam
Branch of Indian Overseas Bank and
also because the Keelalathur Branch
of Central Bank of India had already
completed the target allotted to it by
the District authorities under the
Scheme. A letter is reported to have
been accordingly addressed to the Dis-
trict Industries Centre and handed
over by the Branch Manager to Shri
Perumal on 28-6-1984. Shri Perumal
is reported to have been greatly in-
furiated by this decision and believing
that Shri Sheikh Sharbuddin, Agricul-
ture Field Officer, was responsible for
such a decision, he stabbed Shri
Sheikh Sharbuddin to death. The as-
sailant was apprehended by the pub-
lic and was handed over to the police.
Senior Officers of Bank reached the
spot immediately on receipt of the
news of this unfortunate incident and
got in touch with the local authorities.
The Bank took steps to help and re-
habilitate the family of the deceased
officer.

Employees of the Bank working in
Madras Region went on strike on
6-7-1984 to register their protest and
concern. Bank Officers' Organisations
have sent messages to Government ex-
pressing their sense of shock and urg-
ing Government for suitable action.

The State Government authorities
are investigating the case and full facts
would be known only after the investi-
gation is completed.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : समापति महोदय, राष्ट्रिय बैंकों के खिलाफ हिंसा की कार्यवाहियाँ और डकैतियाँ बहुत तेजी से बढ़ती चली जा रही हैं और ऐसा लग रहा है कि सरकार उसे रोकने में बिलकुल असमर्थ साबित हो रही है। जो इस सदन में आंकड़े दिये गये उस के मुताबिक हर एक आन्टिस्नेटिव तिथि पर अपने देश में बैंकों में डकैती होती है और अभी जिस प्रश्न के संबंध में सरकार का बयान आया है उस में भी और उस के पहले भी सरकार यह कह कर निश्चिन्त हो जाती है कि यह ला एंड आर्डर का मामला तो राज्य सरकार का है। यह बहुत चिन्ताजनक विषय है। ला एंड आर्डर हो सकता है कि राज्य का विषय हो लेकिन नागरिक और इंग्लैंड जो है वह अपने देश के ही हैं और अगर उन की हत्या होती है तो यह सरकार का दायित्व है। इस में मैं यह भी कहना चाहूंगा कि जो बैंकों के एंटीशियेशन हैं उस ने हमारे मंत्री महोदय पर यह सीधा चार्ज लगाया है कि वह इंसाइट करते हैं। उन की स्पीच ऐसी होती है कि जिस में वे कहते कि बैंक आफिसर्स और एनीमीज आफ दि पीपुल और इस संबंध का रेजोल्यूशन माननीय मंत्री जी को मिला होगा। तो क्या यह सच बात है? मैं उस को पढ़ कर सुनाता हूँ जो रेजोल्यूशन पास कर के उन लोगों ने भेजा है।

श्री समापति : उस रेजोल्यूशन का यहाँ क्या मतलब है?

श्री रामानन्द यादव : कोई बाहर रेजोल्यूशन पास कर के आप को गाली दे तो क्या आप पसंद करेंगे उस को सुनना।

श्री समापति : मैं आर्डर इंपोज कर रहा हूँ। ऐसी बातें पढ़ने से क्या फायदा? आप सवाल पूछिये।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : यही सवाल पूछ रहा हूँ। यही चार्ज है। (व्यवधान) पहले मेरी बात तो सुन लीजिए।

श्री रामानन्द यादव : यही क्वेश्चन था आज तक कि इस तरह का रेजोल्यूशन नहीं पढ़ा जायेगा।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : जिस को रक्षा करनी है, जो रक्षक है वही अगर भक्षक हों तो क्या होगा। आप किस से बचायेंगे मंत्री महोदय से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वह अपने इंग्लैंड की रक्षा करेंगे और यहाँ बैंक आफिसर्स अपने रेजोल्यूशन में कहते हैं कि वह इंसाइट करते हैं। तो मेरा पहला प्रश्न है कि यह एंटीगेशन का मंत्री महोदय पर है (व्यवधान)

श्री रामानन्द यादव : वह गलत बयानी कर रहे हैं।

श्री समापति : आप सवाल पूछिये।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : मेरा यही प्रश्न है।

श्री समापति : मुझे सवाल दिखायी नहीं देता। आप मुझे सवाल नहीं सुनाना चाहते, आप तो रेजोल्यूशन सुनाना चाहते हैं।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सवाल हमने पूछा कि इस रेजोल्यूशन के जरिये जो उन के ऊपर चार्ज लगाया गया है कि वह इंसाइट करते हैं लोगों को, यह कहाँ तक सच है?

श्री समापति : क्या आप चाहते हैं कि वह कहेंगे कि जी हाँ, यह सच है?

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : यह तो उन को कहना है । यह तो उन को जवाब देना है । वह बतावेंगे और जानेंगे कि उन को क्या जवाब देना है ।

It is there the resolution. (*Interruptions*). Mr. Chairman, Hon'ble members interrupting all of them can be witnesses, they can give evidence, I have no objection, but my simple question is whether this allegation is correct or not. Let the Minister say.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, the question is that there is no question of inciting anybody. My colleague did not incite anybody, nor did I incite anybody. My colleague drew the attention of the bank officials to certain deficiencies and what is contained in the resolution is absolutely unfounded and incorrect.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Now this is the reply. Why should they be so much agitated? I fail to understand. (*Interruptions*). The Minister is capable enough to reply. Why are the other Members helping? I am unable to understand it. I do not know whether they have no faith in the capability of their Minister.

मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न है कि इस तरह की जो हथारों होती हैं और जो डकैतियां हो रही हैं बैंकों में, उस के बारे में सरकार क्या एप्रोप्रियेट मैजर्स लेना चाहती है । जो मारे गए हैं सराबूदीन साहब, उनके लिए आपने क्या मुआवजा दिया है ? क्या किफा है ?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: These are two different questions. The hon. Member has confused the issue. So far as compensation is concerned, immediately the bank authorities have paid Rs. 5,000 and they are contemplating paying Rs. 50,000 more.

So far as the question of bank dacoities is concerned, we are also wor-

ried about that and on a number of occasions various steps were taken to prevent the occurrences of dacoities and robberies. Various measures have been contemplated but basically it depends on the health of the law and order machinery in a particular area and it would simply not be possible for the bank organisations themselves to protect their bank branches. In that case I shall have to slow down the expansion scheme. There are about 44,000 branches some almost in remote corners of the country. On the one hand the demand is that we should open more branches to cater to the needs of the people. At the same time I cannot go on increasing the operational cost by providing the necessary security arrangements from the bank's money. So we have taken it up with the State Governments also. As the hon. Members have discussed a number of times, the law and order machinery is also under the States for various reasons. I am not going into that aspect. But those measures are being taken care of and necessary arrangements have been made, but still certain occurrences have been coming to our notice and we will try to reduce it as far as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kaiyanasundaram. Your second supplementary is over.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: In the statement the Minister himself has admitted that the employees of the banks working in Madras region went on strike on 6-7-1984 to register their protest and concern and the ink Officers' Association has sent messages to the Government expressing their sense of shock and urging Government for suitable action. What is the suitable action taken? That is my first question. This incident should not be treated lightly. The hon. Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, was himself in Madras more or less in that period and he knows the circumstances and the background which led to such violent attacks of the bank

employees. It is not only Keelalathur, where this officer was murdered. In the same bank other officers were wounded. I have got a list of places where such attacks took place. What is the reason? The scheme is good, but when you conceived the scheme, when you wanted these banks to implement the scheme and when you wanted such large amounts to be disbursed, so quickly did you think whether the banks have got adequate staff or infrastructure that is necessary to process these thousands of applications in each branch. Actually people throng to the banks. And the way in which the propaganda is made about the scheme—a wild propaganda as if it is all gift, nobody need bother about it, not even about the repayment of the amount—it is all for implementing the scheme. Such a wild propaganda is being made. And who are those fellows? All lumpen, antisocial elements have infiltrated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, this is . . .

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: In the name of implementing the scheme, they have infiltrated. They sell bank applications. People were confused. People got infuriated, and speeches were made by the Deputy Minister for Finance who instead of guiding the bank employees properly, instead of guiding his own party properly, was more interested in getting a political advantage rather than in the implementation of the scheme. That is the real problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN:- I think you are going beyond the limit.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: I am coming from Madras.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: I am connected with the trade union. I know the details myself. There are more facts before me.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Sir, we can have a separate discussion.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: Half-an-hour discussion.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the hon. Finance Minister be good enough, in the interest of the fair name of the scheme, in the interest of the fair name of the Finance Ministry and the Government of India to institute an investigation as to how this scheme is being implemented. Were the beneficiaries, the persons who got the money, genuine persons or did the intermediaries walk away with the money? Will you dare to order an inquiry into it? I am prepared to face that inquiry. I will prove that not hundreds but thousands of fraudulent cases are there. Will you order an inquiry? This is my straight question. As you know, Sir, he was good enough to offer some slight compensation. The dead man's life can't be brought back. He was good enough to offer some amount of compensation to the family. I leave it at that, but what about the other bank employees who were wounded?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kaiyana-sundaram, compensation is normally given. The moment somebody's life goes out of him, compensation follows.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Yes, it is given. I am grateful to him, for having announced it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not only now. It has been so always.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will he order an inquiry into the whole thing?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You want an inquiry.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, a number of issues have been raised by the hon. Member. First of all, so far as this particular case is concerned, investigation is already going on. It is a murder case and the State Government is seized of the matter. The person has been apprehended and the State Government is looking into the case, and nobody has taken the case lightly. After all, somebody has lost his life and it is not *

light matter. But, at the same time, the hon. Member would appreciate that things do happen. I need not mention the particular case in which the AIBEA, I am told, may be involved. One Clerk slapped a Manager and the Manager died of shock. It is a normal criminal matter and it is a matter to be taken up. If you bring this type of things _____

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:
If that is true. . .

'SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: If it is not a question of truth. The man has lost his life.. . (Interruptions)..You have made your point. Let me make my point. You have brought unnecessary insinuations and accused the Deputy Minister that he is taking political advantage of it. I can say, nobody is taking political advantage of it, particularly from this side, and my Deputy Minister, Mr. Poojary, is trying his best to improve the condition of the banks. . . (Interruptions:.. . If he insists that the banks' officers are to attend offices regularly, if he makes surprise visits and finds that the clerks are not doing their job and takes them to task, I do consider he is doing a very responsible public duty and we should express our gratitude to him...

(Interruptions). . . I know where the shoe pinches because the Union which has been dominating the banking sector for decades has taught only one thing to the employees*—you are not to do any work, you are to go on merrily in whatever manner you like. . . (Interruptions). . .

SHRI K. MOHANAN: This type of propaganda... (Interruptions)...

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: I know where the shoe pinches. . . (Interruptions) . . . No Need for excitement. . . (Interruptions). . .

SHRI K. MOHANAN: This is slander against the bank clerks.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, another thing. . . (Interruptions). . . I am on my legs. Why are hon. Members excited? They can make their points later on. I can

make only one point. There is no need for excitement. To all the hon. Members who are getting up, I can show the questions.—starred and Unstarred—and letters written to me that the bank people are not doing work. This has been the universal complaint. But I do not subscribe to that. As Banking Minister I am repeatedly pointing out in my public pronouncements that we shall have to keep in mind, firstly, that bank people are to work under constraints. We are giving them so many things to do and simply it is not possible for me—it is easier for Mr. Kalyanasundaram to tell me—to give more people because, at the same time, I shall have to keep in mind what the operational cost is. It is known that today in the Indian banking sector, the operational cost is a little high. That is why I am telling the banking people, -Yes, I understand and appreciate your strain but, at the same time, this is the social commitment you shall have to fulfill." They go on strike and still it happens. I was going to attend the Regional Consultative Committee meeting in Bhopal. Suddenly—I am not talking of the clerks—the bank officers -went on a strike because some action was taken against some bank officers in Calcutta. The bank officers in Bhopal went on a lightning strike, and when they came to meet me, I told them that in this manner if they wanted to threaten the Minister, they were utterly mistaken. I told them; My only advice to you will be to go and join your jobs. Sir, I must tell you that immediately they responded to my suggestion, they went back to their jobs. What I would request them is: Don't try to politicize it. It is neither in your own interest nor in the country's interest. Definitely you have some responsibility. This is an area where the employees are provided a little more. Even now when we are going to finalize an agreement, there would be almost 14.5 per cent wage increase. Some questions have also been tabled. Have you ever taught the employees

that if a State Minister goes and in order to, further the interest of his own union says, that for the trade union no rules, no norms, no regulations are to be followed, this is a little incitement. Mr. Kaiyanasundaram is silent when a State Minister makes a statement like that. And you are fully aware of it because it has affected your own union, and in order to break your union and in order to patronize his union, a State Minister is going and addressing the workers that you are not to follow any rules any regulations, any norms. There Mr. Kaiyanasundaram is silent because they are the honourable partners in managing their stakes. What I am pointing out is that this issue has been discussed a number of times. We do not want to politicalize it. What my colleague is trying to impress upon the bank officers is that this is a scheme where you just strictly adhere to the circular given by the Reserve Bank of India. What he said in Madras was. Please do not insist on security for the loan to the extent of Rs. 5,000. That is the circular of the Reserve Bank of India; that is the decision of the Government of India. And if my Deputy Minister says that you are to follow it, I do not see that he has committed anything wrong. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Sir, arising out of the answer given by the hon. Finance Minister, _____

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you asking a question? What do you want?

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Some explanation is necessary arising out of that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: NO. He understands that.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: My supplementary arises out of the answer given by him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We do not enter into any dispute. Mr. Mohanarangam.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Sir, he has made many allegations saying that I am trying to politicalize. It is not correct that we are trying to politicalize it. If the ruling party gains some advantage, I am not jealous about it. But the way in which this scheme is implemented will not give them any credit, will not give them any advantage. He has not answered my point. I asked him whether he will order an inquiry. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kaiyanasundaram, you are a legislator of several years standing. Please sit down. Mr. Mohanarangam.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Sir, I am also coming from Madras, like my hon. friend Mr. Kaiyanasundaram. While appreciating the action taken by the Government of India with regard to compensation given to the affected persons, I would like to ask him a very specific question. Is it not a fact that an impression has been created in the minds of the public, not only in Madras but all over the country, that getting loan from a bank is a right, and that too even without fulfilling the conditions and the formalities, filling up of forms and all that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Which bank given that?

SHRI R- MOHANARANGAM: Any nationalized bank. An impression has been created in the minds of the public that getting loan from a bank is a right, even without fulfilling their conditions. *

AN HON. MEMBER: Fundamental right.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Fundamental right. That is why, when our Minister goes, I do not bother whether it is politicalized of something. Even if it is politicalized, I am benefited. What I am saying is that when they say that loan is to be given to the public, is it not proper to get surety, is it not proper to have other:

obligations fulfilled before their asking for the loan? But they are asking for the loan from the Bank without fulfilling the conditions. This particular matter is from GudiyaUam where a gentleman wanted a loan of Rs. 45,000 for starting an industry. Of course, it was filled up. It was sanctioned by the State Government. It was duly verified. But that particular bank was not at all expected to give. Some other bank had to give it. What steps has the Government of India taken so far not only with regard to the compensation but also with regard to so many items? We should stop such things. Matters should not be like this hereafter. What action has been taken by the Government of India through banks so that such instances do, not recur in the future?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: First of all, I would like to remove the impression that bank loan can be obtained as a matter of right. It is absolutely not correct. And I think the hon. Members should also try their best to remove this impression.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I got that impression.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, rather I am repeatedly pointing out to the State Governments. And even sometimes I am worried—I am telling very frankly—"ever fixing normal target, fixing a date. Within that period they have to fulfill the target in number. Then, the tendency will be, without proper scrutiny, without proper verification, without looking into the viability of the project, banks' money will be sunk. After all, bankers are custodians of people's money. Therefore, it can never be the position. And no responsible person can say that bank money will be obtained as a matter of right, and bankers will be permitted to throw away the money. Rather my view point and my directive to the banks are totally different. And I am telling them even about the DRI schemes. I think

Mr. Gopalsamy can take down the answers. (*Interruptions*; Let me complete.

Sir, the point 'which Mr. Mohanarangam referred to, I have already explained in the statement. Here the bank officer was not at all at fault. Firstly, the target of that particular bank has been fulfilled. Secondly, the 'area of operation was not within the jurisdiction of the bank officer. And I have myself mentioned in the statement. Therefore, there is no question but that the man who committed this offence, is totally responsible for doing it. But I cannot pass any judgement. It is a sub-judice matter. The court is to decide whether he is guilty or not.

But what I want to point out is that the impression should not go, that the bank money, anybody can have it, without scrutiny, and it is just free-for-all. This impression should not be there.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: I am a responsible person, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We know that.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: I think the hon. Finance Minister knows it, an impression has been created in the minds of the public.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has been removed by the Minister now. It has been removed from my mind also. I was going to my bank today.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: If it has been removed from your mind, then, it is all right.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Chairman, even the Chair has been tempted, when Mr. Mohanarangam mentioned it, that the impression has been created in our State. I appreciate the statement of our hon. Finance Minister. But, Sir, on the contrary, the impression has been creat-

ed through the State, particularly among the rural public, that whoever files an application without any surety, without any other thing, could get a loan sanctioned immediately, because when hon. Mr. Poojary visited, toured, the State, particularly in the southern districts, he made such speeches. I could produce the takes of the speeches of Mr. Poojary. Not only that, Sir, he stated, "You file applications. If you do not get the loan sanctioned within 15 days, you make a complaint to me, and I will sack the concerned officials". Because of this, the youth. . .
(Interruptions)

Why are you perturbed? The truth always hurts them. Sir, because of this, the youth, particularly those who wanted to avail of loan, got frustrated, and when they were not able to get loan they resorted to violence, not only that, I would like to put the question. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, I understand, instructions have been given by hon. Mr. Poojary to the bank officers that applications recommended or sponsored by the Congress (I) MPs only should be considered. That is why, Sir, what has happened is, when we sponsored certain applications to those banks, the persons were informed, "You get these applications recommended by a Member of Parliament belonging to the Congress (I) Party." I would like to know from the Government whether it is the money of the Congress Party, whether it is the money of the Congress (I) Party. Sir, it is the public money and Congress-I M.Ps, cannot forward applications to the bank officials for grant of loans to the persons who are closely associated with their party.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are assuming that they are going to deny.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, I seek your protection. This has happened and I can prove it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let them first admit that such instructions have been given. Then we will decide whether the money in the bank belongs to Congress-I or is your money. (Interruptions)

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Sir, when Mr. Poojary visited Andhra Pradesh along with Congress-I M.Ps, he did the same thing.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, I am on my legs. If hon. Members want to take one hour on one question I cannot help.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Finance Minister is on his legs. Please be seated. Now, I want to proceed to the next question.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, I want Mr. Poojary to answer our charges.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, I am on my legs. Let him take his seat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am trying to finish this question.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, the money does not belong either to my party or Mr. Gopalsamy's party.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I do not want that poor people should suffer. It is public money.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, the money belongs to our country. What my junior colleague had suggested to the bank officers was that various schemes are there, Honourable Members are fully aware of it, the differential rate of interest scheme which is meant for the poorest of the poor. We have the scheme where in each block 600 families are to be identified and assistance are to be rendered through

the banks and the Government. There are different schemes for N.R.E.P. There are schemes for self-employment and in most of these schemes there are specified authorities for identifying beneficiaries. For instance, D.R.D.A. is the competent authority to identify the beneficiaries; under I.R.D.P. the State Government is the competent authority to identify the beneficiaries; under the N.R.E.P. bank people also can exercise their mind whether the scheme is bankable or viable. Therefore, it is not correct to say that the beneficiaries are identified on the certificates issued by Congress-I M.Ps. or non-Congress-I M.Ps. But I myself got letters (Interruptions) Mr. Kalmadi please take your seat, (Interruptions) Mr. Kaiyansundaram I am not yielding, from Members of Parliament recommending particular applications. I have also received letters from the members of the public that such and such case should be considered and bank people have done in that spirit. Sir, that does not mean that mere recommending a particular case that case has to be looked into. Sir, if the public representatives forward any applications to the bank people or to the other authorities, there is nothing wrong in it. But there is no such instructions that the persons are to be provided loans. Sir, rather I am told that a political party where Mr. Kalmadi comes (Interruptions) in the city, not Mr. Kalmadi's party, have started distributing the bank loans and made the announcement in the press that we are going to flood the banks with loan applications. Therefore, do not pass on the blame on us. Sir, certain people are also trying to take advantage of it (Interruptions.) But my instruments to the bank people are: don't concede to the political pressures. Go by your own judgment and we are strictly adhering to it.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UP- ENDRA:
Sir, one minute. (Interruptions) Sir, one last question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No last question. I think we have had enough on this question. (Interruptions)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, one point. Please allow me, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. I am allowing Mr. Dipen Ghosh.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, certain records have to be made straight.

The Leader of the House and hon. Minister of Finance has made a statement while giving replies to certain supplementaries and he has gone on record as saying that the bank employees do not work and the union teaches the bank employees not to work.....

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : Yes, you are responsible for that.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I think the hon. Minister of Finance has got some immunity for speaking anything in the House.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have also the same immunity.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Please listen. The point is, no one, no union teaches the employees not to work. That is the first thing. The second thing is, this general, -sweeping remark that bank employees do not work is not also correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. It has gone on record.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: He must withdraw it.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: In the background of the fact which the leader of the House and Minister of Finance has himself admitted, that in the relevant case, the bank people were not on the wrong side, if the statement goes to the press that bank employees do not work and the union teaches the

bank employees not to work, and if an impression is created among the people that the settlement of their loan applications is delayed because of what the Minister of Finance has stated, that is, the bank employees do not work and the union people teach them not to work, what happens? This question has to be answered.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, I do not think anybody other than Mr. Dipen Ghosh is more confused. Either he did not understand what I pointed out or he did not make an effort to understand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why should he understand?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: . . . because it is convenient for him not to understand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Exactly.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: The point is, what I said was that when I get complaints that the bank people are not working—it is not my assessment—then I tell some of my officers or my junior colleague to look into that particular case. This is one point. The second point, is I myself admitted that we are exposing our banking system to social banking in such a big way in the non-traditional, non-conventional way that they have not been taught so far, even before the nationalisation of the banks. All these things are happening within the period from 1969 till date. In regard to the employees I simply quoted one hon. Minister of one State who himself, according to press reports said, said the trade union workers, are not working and I referred to that particular union. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Now he takes the press reports at their face value.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: He is deliberately confusing the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is enough. Question No. 122.

Non-registration of Shares purchased by non-resident Indians

*122. SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA†

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Non-resident Indians, who had responded to the offers made by the Finance Minister in his last year's Budget speech, have complained that their shares have not been registered by several companies in India;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India has withheld permission in this respect;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to meet the demands of the Non-resident Indian investors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Instances have come to the notice of the Government that shares reported to have been purchased by certain non-resident Indians have not been registered by the Indian companies.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sushil Chand Mohunta.