

**Demand to extend the pension benefits to the former employees of
Global Trust Bank merged into the Oriental Bank of Commerce**

DR. RAM PRAKASH (Haryana): I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of Finance a very harsh decision taken by the management of the Oriental Bank of Commerce which had given pensionary benefits to all its employees but denied the same to the erstwhile employees of the Global Trust Bank who had been working in the said Bank since its merger in 2004.

Sir, there have been several decisions of the High Courts which *inter alia* say that all the employees are treated alike after their merger in the mainstream. The past blemishes, if any, disappear the moment they are merged in the mainstream and as such, they cannot be treated indifferently.

It may also be stated that some time back, a number of employees of Punjab Co-operative Bank were also merged in the Oriental Bank of Commerce, perhaps in 1997, and those persons have been given all benefits including pensionary benefits. I do not know the circumstances under which the erstwhile employees of Global Trust Bank are being denied this benefit which has greatly demoralised them. Besides, it is a clear-cut violation of articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution of India.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Finance Minister to issue instructions to the management of the Oriental Bank of Commerce to extend the pensionary benefits to these employees also, and inform the House at the earliest.

**Demand to take steps for stopping the spillage of oil from Oil Wells
operated by ONGC in Champang region of Nagaland**

SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI (Nagaland): A serious environmental catastrophe is staring at the villages of Wokha District of Nagaland. The oil fields opened up by the ONGC in the year 1981 and operated till 1994 in Champang area of Nagaland are now spilling out heavily causing devastating damages to soil and water. The estimated yield of this well is about 110 million barrels, which is equivalent to about 55,000 crores in rupee terms. The oil spill may lit up into a major fire accident. The Land Owners' Union of Champang has taken up this issue with the ONGC on several occasions but with no relief. The Union Government and the ONGC are both morally and legally liable to meet the environmental challenge. I request the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and also the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests to depute a Fast Track Team to the Champang area to assess the situation, recommend necessary remedial measures including stoppage of the spillage of oil, and, also determine the compensation for the land owners and poor farmers.

There is also an urgent and imperative need to honour in letter and spirit the provisions enshrined in article 371-A of our Constitution, which gives special protection to the State of Nagaland in regard to ownership and transfer of land and its resources, and, which is often infringed by the Government of India.

Under Government of India's New Exploration Licensing Policy of 2002, several blocks were awarded to a consortium of ONGC, which is a blatant violation of article 371-A. I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to respect the provisions of article 371-A in letter and spirit. Thank you.

**Need to take measures to ensure adequate training and preparedness
by Indian players in Commonwealth Games 2010**

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL (Maharashtra): Sir, what is the level of preparedness of the Indian players who will be participating in the Commonwealth Games? Are there adequate measures and facilities in place for ensuring adequate training and practice so that India performs well in the Commonwealth Games? The Government should ensure that there would not be lack of financial resources for the participants of the country who are likely to take part in various events being organized during the Commonwealth Games. Otherwise, the efforts being made by the players as well as Government shall go waste. The deficiency shall not only demotivate players but also bring down the dignity and prestige of the country. The Government should, therefore, make all-out efforts to train our players so that they give out their best performance in the Commonwealth Games.

Concern over purchase of arms through foreign military sales route

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, in reply to Unstarred Question No.1046 dated 4.8.2010, the hon. Minister of Defence has said, "Some of the requirements of the Armed Forces have been met by procurements through Foreign Military Sales Procedure of the U.S. Government. In these non-tender purchases, the U.S. Government procures the equipments on behalf of the Indian Government from its military companies and takes a commission for the services rendered through Pentagon's Defence Security Cooperation Agency". Since 2002, purchases of equipments through this route ran into several billion dollars. Since the purchases are being made by the U.S. Government from the U.S. military companies, it is natural that the U.S. Government will serve the interests of the U.S. firms. But, what is the source of money being paid by Pentagon's Defence Security Cooperation Agency? Is it the Government of India for engaging third party in defence deals or is it the U.S. military firms for negotiating the defence deals in their favour? It is learnt that Army Chief General has written to the Defence Minister pointing out the Army's trouble with maintenance of a dozen weapon-loading radars bought from the U.S. firm Raytheon and said that at times two-thirds of the radars have been in want of maintenance.

Sir, I want to ask from the Government: Why is India procuring arms through Foreign Military Sales Procedure of the U.S. Government and what is the source of money being paid by Pentagon's Defence Security Cooperation Agency?

**Demand to use NREGS funds to provide relief measures to the
drought affected people in West Bengal**

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, a serious crisis situation has emerged in