

things will happen several times, and mafia raj will establish in the country. ...(Time bell rings)... So, Sir, I would like to request the Government to protect the common people of this country.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

DR. M.S. GILL (Punjab): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with this subject.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, all of you associate yourselves with it.

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

MS. MABEL REBELLO (Jharkhand): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

Government's proposed move to reduce the interest rate on EPF

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I want to draw your attention and also the attention of the House to the most retrograde move of the Government at the Centre to drastically slash down the interest rate on employees Provident Fund from 9.5 per cent as prevalent in 2010-2011 to 8.25 per cent for the year 2011-12.

Sir, the Government in a most cunning manner has scheduled the meeting of the Finance Investment Committee of Central Board of Trustees of Employees Provident Fund Organisation just after the close of Winter Session, obviously, to avoid the matter to surface in Parliament. Sir, my question is, why the lifetime savings of the workers in the Provident Fund are targeted to be made the sacrificial goat for effecting interest cut.

(THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN in the Chair.)

When during the span of last one year, the interest rates of banks and financial institutions are continuously rising to higher and higher plateau through the direct intervention of the RBI and the Government of India, may be, for addressing the inflationary situation, why the same Government is forcing a reduction on the interest rate on workers' Provident Fund, which is at the disposal of the Government? Sir, unlike other deposits including term-deposits, fixed deposits in banks and financial institutions, the Provident Fund of the workers is a social security fund, which is a longest term recurring fixed deposit and this Fund remains with the Government continuously for long twenty-five to thirty years. This Fund deserves a much higher rate of interest than the usual fixed

deposits with the banks and financial institutions. Moreover, this Fund deserves an assured higher rate of return because it is a social security fund for five crore workers in the organised services who produce value for the economy, revenue for the exchequer and also profit for the employers. But just the opposite thing is being done. The workers who are already suffering from serious exploitation due to price-rise, labour law violations, etc., another cut on their lifetime savings, their own money, is being imposed. I reiterate that in view of the continuing price rise being promoted by the Government, and continuing increase in the interest rate, which is again being promoted by the Government, the reduction in the interest rate of the workers' Provident Fund is unjust and is being opposed by the working class. I request the whole House to please join me in urging upon the Government to ensure that the interest rate on the Provident Fund is not slashed down from its present level. I demand a clear assurance from the Government in this regard against this unjust, unwarranted cut on interest rate of workers' own money, which is at the disposal of the Government for free use by it. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, I also associate myself with this subject.

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

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

DR. BARUN MUKHERJI (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with this subject.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

DR. T.N. SEEMA (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

SHRIMATI JHARNADAS BAIYA (Tripura): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with this subject.

**Killing of four Hindu doctors and three shopkeepers of
minority community in Pakistan**

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना (पंजाब): सर, मैं इस zero hour में पिछले दिनों पाकिस्तान में चार हिंदू डॉक्टरों को गोलियों से मार दिए जाने की घटना की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। उसके बाद तीन दुकानदारों जिन्होंने