

[Shri Binoy Viswam]

Sir, often it is accused that the Congress also did it. Yes, they did it. In ten years of UPA Government, Congress brought altogether 59 Ordinances. Ten years of UPA! In the first seven months of Modi regime in 2014, in seven months, they brought eleven Ordinances. Sir, which are they? Just have a look at it. One was FDI in insurance sector. Second is coal blocks for public auction. Third is land acquisition for the big industries. These were the Ordinances which were brought in the first seven months of the Modi regime and they believe these are the most urgent things. 'सबका साथ, सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास', यह अच्छा स्लोगन है, बहुत अच्छा है, but are these matters so important or of such an urgency to bypass the Parliament. This is the question. This Bill also—the IMC Bill—nobody can question it but why such a hurry. Why to deny the right of the Parliament to have a debate threadbare? This is our question. We would raise it again and again. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Viswamji. The Resolution is moved. Before I move to next stage, there is a statement by Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Medium of examination for Direct Recruitment to certain levels in Regional Rural Banks

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE; AND THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Thank you very much Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. This is a statement on "Medium of examination for direct recruitment to certain levels in Regional Rural Banks". It was also raised by one of the Members.

At present there are about 45 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) functioning in the country having a total staff strength of about 90,000 employees.

The Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) conducts Common Recruitment Process (CRP) for Recruitment of Officers (Scale-I, II & III) and Office Assistant (Multipurpose) in RRBs on an all India basis in English and Hindi medium.

In the present system, candidates educated in local languages are at a disadvantage due to the medium of examination. Various references and representations have also been received suggesting, *inter alia*, to conduct the recruitment examination for RRBs in regional languages.

The functioning of RRBs is State-specific and rural focussed and therefore knowledge of the local language of that particular State/region would help the candidate in performing his duties effectively.

Thus, with a view to provide a level playing field and to expand employment possibilities for local youths, it has been decided that examination for direct recruitment of Officers (Scale-I) and Office Assistant (Multipurpose) in RRBs will be conducted in 13 regional languages in addition to English and Hindi. These 13 regional languages are Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. The candidates will, in addition to English and Hindi, also have the option to choose the regional language of the State that they have opted for, from among the above languages, as their medium of examination.

This change shall be implemented from the Mains examination of CRP RRB VIII (2009) onwards.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, the thirty seconds only. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is a welcome initiative. I have only one small suggestion. Hon. Minister, in para 4, you have mentioned, "The State/region would help the candidate in performing his duties effectively." I want you to add 'her' also. I am sure you must consider this suggestion.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your suggestion.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, we wholeheartedly congratulate the hon. Minister for this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): We also wholeheartedly congratulate the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... to have the examination in Tamil. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us move to the next Business. ...*(Interruptions)*... Before that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): We also want to bring it on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*... I would like to ask the hon. Minister through you as to whether Konkani language has got any alphabets or letters. In Konkani, they don't have the script. In my opinion, in Konkani language, there is no script.

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH (Karnataka): Madam, first of all, we were demanding it for the last one year; at least, now it has materialised and I wholeheartedly thank you for this step. ...*(Interruptions)*... Number two: Will it not be implemented in the nationalised banks also? ...*(Interruptions)*... Navaneethakrishnanji, one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*... Madam, can it not be implemented in the nationalised banks also, at least, making knowledge of regional languages ...*(Interruptions)*... compulsory for Groups C and D employees. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister that she has taken such a beautiful step. I seek only one clarification. Who will set up the question paper in the regional language? That is an important thing. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Regarding my clarification, I need the answer. ...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): Sir, I join my colleagues in extending heartfelt thanks and congratulate the hon. Minister. But my concern is: Why not all the languages listed in the Schedule of the Indian Constitution including Maithili? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the suggestion. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Shri Tiruchi Siva.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: I have already clarified. Now, I expect the Minister to answer. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, she will answer. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Shri Tiruchi Siva.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: Sir, we also want to congratulate the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: We have been asking to conduct the Staff Selection Commission examinations in regional languages. But starting with RRB, it has been announced. We are very much grateful and congratulate the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)... The regional language students will be very much benefitted.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: We really want to thank our hon. Finance Minister. It must be continued for other examinations also. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

श्री विश्वजीत दैमारी (असम): सर, हमारे एक colleague ने कहा है कि जितनी Eighth Schedule में languages हैं, यह उन सब पर होना अच्छा है। मैं असम के बारे में एक बात बताना चाहता हूँ। वहां पर Assamese और Bodo दो languages हैं। सर, वहाँ पर Bodo मीडियम है, स्कूल में Bodo भाषा में पढ़ना पड़ता है, इसलिए ऐसी स्टेड्स में जिस language में वहाँ के लोगों ने पढ़ाई की है, वे उसी regional language में exam भी दें।

श्री उपसभापति: माननीय मंत्री जी कुछ कहें, उससे पहले, ये जो सारी चीज़ें regional languages में हुई हैं, यह एक बड़ा कदम है। बजट की पूर्व संध्या पर यह देश की क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं के लिए बड़ी सौगात है। I think, उन्हें बढ़ाई देनी चाहिए। आप कुछ कहना चाहती हैं?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Largely, I am very grateful that it has been well-received. I am very thankful to every Member here.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, I move to. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Just one minute, Sir. I just want to respond to one senior Member, Shri T. K. Rangarajan. I was not sure about what he asked. Did he ask about the dialect *versus* language?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It was regarding script.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Was it regarding dialect *versus* languages?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It was about Konkani script. ...(Interruptions)... I think it is in Devnagiri.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Every dialect has its recognised language script. So, I may not be able to immediately answer that. But, if you are asking about Konkani, and if it is Konkani, which is written in Kannada's script, it goes in Kannada script.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: The script of Hindi language is Devnagri.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Tamil is not in Devnagri.