



Saturday
28th March, 1953

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE
OFFICIAL REPORT

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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

1499

1500

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Saturday, 28th March, 1953.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

REPORT OF OFFICIAL COMMITTEE ON
D.V.C.

*1047. **Shri B. K. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether the official committee appointed to report on certain matters regarding the Damodar Valley Corporation has submitted its report?

(b) What are its main recommendations?

(c) What recommendations have been accepted by the Government?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri B. K. Das: The Estimates Committee made definite recommendations regarding the administrative set-up of the D.V.C. and why is it that again that matter has formed a subject under the terms of reference of this Committee? May I know what special subjects they are enquiring into?

Shri Hathi: It was on the recommendations of the Estimates Committee that Government thought it fit to inquire into the matter and to get a comprehensive idea as to what should be the organisational set-up or what modifications should be made.

Shri B. K. Das: I want further elucidation from the hon. Minister because the Estimates Committee made very detailed recommendations.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is it that the hon. Member wants?

Shri B. K. Das: I want to know what are the special subjects or special matters that the Committee will inquire into regarding the administrative set-up and also the appointment of the Chief Engineer, because these matters.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member may put a precise question and get the answer. Evidently, he wants the terms of reference of this Committee.

Shri Hathi: I can read the terms of reference. The fourth one reads: "The adequacy of the D.V.C. Act 1948 and the organizational set-up of the Corporation."

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the terms of reference of this Committee relate only to those subjects for which the Estimates Committee recommended or other subjects have also been included?

Shri Hathi: It includes all the subject matters which are included in the terms of reference and not specially restricted to the recommendations of the Estimates Committee.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that the work of the Committee has been somewhat embarrassed by the tribute paid by the Prime Minister on the occasion of the opening of Tilaya Dam to the D.V.C.?

Shri Hathi: I do not know, Sir.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether any fresh facts have come into light, after the report of the Estimates Committee had been made, which are also to be inquired into by the Committee?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why not the hon. Minister pass the resolution to him?

Shri Hathi: I think some time back the resolution was laid on the Table. If it is not available I shall lay it on the Table again.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The last item of the terms of reference is the appointment of an expert Secretary to the Corporation. May I know whether in the appointment of the present Secretary, the view of this Committee has been provisionally taken?

Shri Hathi: I have not exactly followed what the hon. Member means. There are no terms of reference which refer to the appointment of a Secretary.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know when the Estimates Committee recommended for the appointment of this Committee, when was it appointed and when it began functioning?

Shri Hathi: The Committee was appointed by a Resolution dated 20th September 1952. I do not know exactly the date of the report of the Estimates Committee.

U. N. 'EXPERT MISSION'

*1048. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state whether a U.N. Expert Mission recently on a tour of South East Asia and Oceania, had also visited some community development areas in India?

(b) How many community development areas were visited by this Mission?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes.

(b) Eight.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether that mission was invited by the Government of India to visit these centres or it was sent by the U.N.O. for any specific purpose?

Shri Hathi: That came under the authority of the U.N.O. but with the consent of the Government of India.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What was the purpose of that visit?

Shri Hathi: The purpose of this mission was to go round India and other Asian Countries and to see how far the community projects and other community development programmes could be organized in these countries.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Does the U.N.O. intend to organize such programmes as the hon. Minister just stated in India also and if so, where?

Shri Hathi: I have no information where actually they want to organize the programme.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether Government have ascertained as to how many of these experts had actual experience in the working of Community Development Projects in their home countries?

Shri Hathi: That is a question for the U.N.O. and the Government, of course, did not ascertain these things.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Has the Government been able to ascertain or know the impressions of this mission?

Shri Hathi: The official report of this Mission is still awaited.

Shri Nanadas: May I know in what way the U.N.O. is connected with the Community Projects in India?

Shri Hathi: This mission visited some 8 centres where the community projects are situated.

Shri Nanadas: I want to know how the United Nations Organization is connected with the Community Projects in India.

Shri Hathi: The United Nations Organization wanted that this Mission should go in the Asian countries and see how these things work and how further they could be developed.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether these experts when they went round these Community Projects held conferences with particular officers there and also with local workers?

Shri Hathi: They did meet the local officers and local workers.

UTILISATION OF COAL RESOURCES

*1049. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn towards a rational policy regarding utilization of our coal resources as enunciated by Dr. S. K. Sircar, President of the Engineering and Metallurgy Section of the Science Congress, in his address on Sunday, the 4th January, 1953 at Lucknow and state:

(a) the recommendations of the Science Congress in this connection;

(b) the attitude of Government;

(c) the steps which Government propose to take to implement them either on a short term or a long term basis or on the basis of both;

(d) whether the aims as concluded by the Congress have received Government's consideration; and

(e) if so, what are the financial and other implications in adopting them?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): The Government have seen a copy of Dr. Sircar's speech.

(a) No recommendations were made by the Science Congress.

(b) to (e). The points made in Dr. Sircar's speech are under consideration.

Dr. Jaisoorya: Did Government also get certain recommendations from Whittaker?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am not aware of any, Sir.

FOREIGN MARKETS FOR INDIAN TEXTILE

*1050. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations made by Shri Kumaran Nair, Director of Exports, after his study of foreign markets for Indian Textiles abroad;

(b) the names of countries he visited for the purpose;

(c) whether these recommendations have been scrutinised; and

(d) if so, what are the actions taken?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 11.]

(b) Burma, Thailand, Malaya, Indonesia and Ceylon.

(c) Yes.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how far the reducing of export duty from 25 per cent. to 10 per cent. *ad valorem* had helped?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is too early to say with any definiteness what are the results of this reduction in export duty.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Have the Government considered the possibility and the feasibility of distributing the export quotas to all the producers of the country in the various textile zones of India?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: So far as the cotton textiles are concerned, there are no quotas. It is free. Anybody can export.

***Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** Is it that people from all parts are allowed to export?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, anybody can export.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know whether the expert has found any market for our hand-loom products?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The officer concerned went there not to canvass but to survey the market and he has submitted a report. The statement has been laid on the Table of the House. It roughly indicates what action has been taken. Trade has been told how to reform their methods of approach to meet foreign requirements which will improve our position in the foreign markets.

Shri Punnoose: Is it a fact that no attempt was made to explore markets for our hand-loom goods?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, actually, one of the principal reasons why this officer was sent was to find out the state of the hand-loom market.

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, the results of his study so far as the hand-loom cotton textiles are concerned?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The result of his study is in the report. We have given an extract of the report. The hon. Member will do well to read the statement.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, whether this officer when he went abroad had samples of hand-loom cloth which could be supplied?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, as I said before, he did not go to canvass business. He merely went to study the market.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know, Sir, what steps are being contemplated to see that the quality of the cloth is maintained so that the honour of the country may not be damaged?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, this officer had made certain remarks in regard to the quality of cloth supplied and the complaints made. Government have been urging the industry to agree to the institution of some kind of quality control in regard to exports. The Cotton Textile Fund Committee was seized of this matter and had appointed a Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee has made certain recommendations. The question now is whether it should be a voluntary adoption of inspection or whether it should be compulsory. The matter, Sir, is under negotiation.

Shri Dabhi: May we know the maximum quantities of mill cloth as well as hand-loom cloth for which foreign markets are likely to be obtained in the near future?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, in regard to mill cloth our target is about 1,000 million yards. Whether we will obtain it or not is really a matter which we have to investigate. In regard to hand-loom cloth, our export market has been varying. I think the last good year has been somewhere in the region of 50 to 60 million yards.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The hon. Minister said that 1,000 million yards of cloth were ready for export in 1952. May I know, Sir, whether all of that amount has been exported because of the reduction of the export duty?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am sorry, Sir, I have left a wrong impression on the hon. Member's mind. I did not say that anything was ready. Our target for this year is 1,000 million yards.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, who are the potential or active competitors of Indian trade in these markets?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, U.K. and Japan—Japan more than the U.K.

RESTRICTIONS ON INDIANS DOING BUSINESS IN U.S.A.

*1055. **Shri Kelappan:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state what are the restrictions on Indian nationals in the matter of acquisition of property in U.S.A.?

(b) Are there any such restrictions on American nationals in the matter of acquisition of property and doing business in India?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). Although a few states of the U.S.A. prohibit aliens from owning property, the vast majority of the states make no distinction between American citizens and aliens for this purpose. Likewise, there are no restrictions on American nationals in the matter of acquiring property in India, though there are certain restrictions in some of the States in the matter.

As regards restrictions on U.S. nationals in the matter of carrying on business in India the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given by the Minister of Commerce and Industry on the 12th December 1952, to Starred Questions No. 1132.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, the names of the States which are still prohibiting Indian nationals from owning property there?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: United States? We have asked for the names of those States. We have not got the names.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the number of such States?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Our report states, "just a few States". We have asked for specific information.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: How many American nationals are holding property in India at present?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have not got the information.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, what is the total value of property in India owned by American nationals?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have no information.

Dr. Jaisooriya: Have any Indian nationals acquired property in America?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Yes, Sir.

Shri Kelappan: From the statement I find that it is almost impossible for businessmen to get their visas extended. Does it not mean that it is almost impossible for Indian nationals to carry on business in America?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I would not say that it is impossible, but very often it is very difficult.

Shri P. T. Chacko: Even in those States where there are no restrictions on Indians holding property, may I know whether there is any restriction for the period for which they can stay there?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: During that period?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: According to the immigration laws, a particular period is specified in the visa and they have to leave when the period is over.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : जिन स्टेटों में अमेरिका में इस प्रकार के प्रतिबन्ध हैं, भारतियों के ऊपर, क्या वे वही स्टेट्स हैं कि जहाँ पर इस प्रकार के प्रतिबन्ध हबशियों पर और दूसरी जातियों पर ?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: As I said before, Sir, we have not got the names of those particular States, where there are some restrictions on our nationals. We will supply the information later on.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: In those States where there are restrictions on holding property, are there restrictions on doing business on Indian nationals?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I would like to have notice of the question.

Shri Kelappan: Will the Government consider the question of adopting the policy of reciprocity in dealing with foreign countries in this matter?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Yes, Sir. We are negotiating a treaty with the United States of America and the question of reciprocity is certainly being discussed in connection with that.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: From the statement I find, Sir, that some of the businessmen are asked to execute bonds to the tune of \$500 to \$1,000 before entering America. Have the Government brought this to the notice of the Government of the United States and just requested them to lift this condition?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: These are due to the provisions of the American immigration law. As I said, in the treaty which we are negotiating with the United States of America, the question of reciprocity is being discussed.

Shri P. T. Chacko: Is the attention of the Government drawn to cases where certain Indian nationals were asked to go out of the country even before the termination of the period fixed in the visas?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have not got any information on that matter. If a separate question is put, I will certainly answer it.

RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENTS AND PACTS BY PARLIAMENT

*1057. **Shri Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of discussing in Parliament the Agreements etc., executed with other countries and get all Agreements and Pacts ratified by Parliament in future; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for it and what are the difficulties

in the way of Government in establishing such a convention in the Republic of India?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). The Constitution has vested the treaty making power in the executive Government. Treaty making in its widest sense includes all kinds of international agreements and, in the circumstances of today, a large number of such agreements have to be made frequently. This is, therefore, considered an executive function. To place all these agreements before Parliament for ratification would, apart from taking up a great deal of the time of Parliament, mean delay and may lead to other practical difficulties. A treaty or an international agreement can either be accepted or rejected. It cannot be varied, because there are other parties to it.

2. Such treaties or agreements are in conformity with the general Policy laid down by Parliament. Where there is a variation of that general policy, it would certainly be desirable to consult Parliament and, where legislation is required to implement the provisions of an agreement, this has to come before Parliament.

3. Any treaties or international agreements will be placed on the Table of the House, Government do not think it necessary or desirable that any new convention should be established in this respect.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, what is the convention in the U.K.? I learn that in the U.K. treaties are placed before the House and discussion is allowed before any decision is taken. So, is it the intention of the Government to follow the same method here also?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I understand that within the British Empire there is a well established rule that the making of treaties is an executive act whereas the performance of obligations if they entail any alteration of existing domestic laws requires legislative sanction.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether the Government proposes to send copies of the treaties and agreements, as and when they are made, to the Members whether the House is in session or not?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have said in the last part of my answer that any treaties and international agreements will be placed on the Table of the House

EXPORT TO FIJI

***1058. Shri C. R. Chowdary:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Colonial Government in Fiji imposed any restriction or restrictions on the import of cotton textiles, artificial silk cloth, cement and safety matches etc. into Fiji; and

(b) the value in Rupees of the exports in cotton textiles, artificial silk, cement and safety matches etc., to Fiji in the years 1951 and 1952?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) If the reference is to Indian goods the reply is in the negative.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 12.]

Shri C. R. Chowdary: May I know, Sir, whether our exports are meeting the market demands in Fiji?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid, Sir, I have no information.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: May I know whether Japan is our rival in the Fiji and South-East Asian markets?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is possible, but I should like to have notice, Sir.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether the Government is taking any steps to improve our exports to Fiji islands?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In the same way as we do with regard to other countries, through the medium of our diplomatic representatives.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know whether the Fiji Government has export duties under two heads, 'standard' and 'preference'?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I should like to have notice.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether we have any Trade Commissioner in Fiji; if we have not any, who is in charge of the Fiji islands?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like to verify the position, Sir. If the hon. Member puts down a question I will answer.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

***1059. Shri Madiah Gowda:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what are

the cottage industries, to the development of which, Government have decided to give top priority, and what actual steps do they propose to take with a view to develop these industries and also to protect them from the competition of large scale industries?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 13.]

Shri Madiah Gowda: May I know whether any training centre for the training of personnel has been started and, if so, where and to train in what industry?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, to go beyond what is stated in the statement, I should like to have notice.

Shri Madiah Gowda: Sir, I wish to know whether anything has been done to encourage village gannies and to protect them from large-scale oil manufacturing factories?

Shri Karmarkar: The Village Industries Board set up by the Ministry will look into the question.

Shri Madiah Gowda: Has anything been done so far?

Shri Karmarkar: Nothing material has been done.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: Is it proposed to impose levies on the machine-made goods to raise money for the encouragement of these cottage industries as is being done in the case of hand-loom industry?

Shri Karmarkar: Perhaps the hon. Member is doubtless aware that we propose to levy a cess of 3 pies per yard on mill-made cloth with a view to encourage hand-made cloth.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants to know about all industries.

Shri Karmarkar: We have none. I would require notice.

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, whether any special priority has been given to the leather manufacturing industry?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, the priorities that have been given to hand-made industries are to sports goods, glassware, footwear and leather goods. It is there in the statement.

Shri Raghavalah: From the statement I find that there are two Boards constituted for the development of Khadi and hand-loom Industries.

May I know whether it is not possible to integrate the two Boards and lessen the personnel?

Shri Karmarkar: We set up two Boards because we thought it necessary.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know whether there is any representative of the Hand-loom Weavers' Association in the Hand-loom Board?

Shri Karmarkar: The Board was constituted not with a view to giving any representation to particular bodies. We selected the members, competent persons in our opinion, who could promote the cause of hand-loom and my hon. friend will find that some of them are connected with hand-loom work.

Shri Raghavaiah: From the statement I find all these experts are only servants of the Government of India and not the representatives of any of the Hand-loom Weavers' Associations.

Shri Karmarkar: If my hon. friend will carefully study the personnel he will doubtless find that some among the non-official workers do know a lot about the hand-loom industry.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know, Sir.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are we entering into a debate here on the hand-loom industry? Questions must be put for the purpose of eliciting information. The hon. Member wants to convince the hon. Minister that there is nobody to represent the Weavers' Associations. The hon. Minister does not agree.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether any heavy export duty is placed on the cottage industry goods?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Tariff schedule will give this. Whether it is heavy or light is a different matter and it is for the hon. Member to compare whether it is heavy or light.

Shri Velayudhan: I want to know about it, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is fully aware that all the information that is available in printed books, leaflets etc. ought not to be put as questions on the floor of the House.

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, I said that the Government want to encourage and not to discourage the hand-loom products and hand-made goods. We do not, therefore propose to impose any export duty

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know what steps Government have taken so far with a view to improve the technical processes of these small scale industries?

Shri Karmarkar: There was a scheme under consideration to set up an institute at Babuaganj. Doubtless the new Board will pursue the matter. Of course, that is one of the objects.

Shri Raghavaiah: In the statement it is said that for the development of the cottage industries and hand-loom industries, one of the methods is the reservation of spheres of production. As a result of that reservation by the Government of India, will not the workers in the large-scale industry be thrown out of employment?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, if as a result of the reservation in favour of the small scale industry some of the workers are thrown out of employment, the Government would not mind it in the interests of the small scale industries.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We cannot have the cake and eat it too.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether the Government proposes to have the representatives of these industries concerned on this Board?

Shri Karmarkar: We do not look at it from that point of view. We have an over-all idea of the thing and in fixing up the personnel we do consider as to how best the industry would be served and doubtless one of the considerations is to have on the Boards persons who are competent to discharge their duties to the small scale industries and help them.

SALT

*1061. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the steps being taken to improve the quality of salt produced in India?

(b) Which of the States have recommended the abolition of distribution by nominee system and how has that recommendation been considered by Government?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The quality of salt can be improved by the adoption of scientific methods of production, including the realignment of pans with a view to maintenance of a proper ratio between the areas of condensers

and crystallisers. The Salt Department is giving technical advice to private manufacturers, and runs a model factory at Wadala in Bombay, to demonstrate the value of modern methods of manufacture, and a scientific layout of factories. Another model factory will shortly be established at Tuticorin. A minimum standard of sodium chloride content for edible salt is prescribed each year, and is being raised gradually from year to year, so as to attain ultimately the standard of 96 per cent. recommended by the Indian Standards Institution. Laboratories have been established in all the producing regions, to test the quality of salt produced by manufacturers, and the Salt Department enforces the prescribed standard by banning the issue of sub-standard salt for edible purposes. The opening of more model factories and test laboratories is under consideration. A Central Salt Research Station is also being set up at Bhavnagar in Saurashtra, under the auspices of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, to investigate problems connected with salt.

(b) None of the States in which the nominee system of distribution prevails has recommended its abolition.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know, Sir, how long will it take to reach the maximum standard laid down by the Indian Standards Institute?

Shri K. C. Reddy: This year the percentage is fixed at 94; next year it will be 95 or 96 per cent. Anyway in three years it is hoped to attain the standard fixed by the Indian Standards Institute.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know, Sir, in the case of those States where the nominee system does not prevail, whether those States have been recommended the adoption of that system?

Shri K. C. Reddy: No, we did not ask such of those States who have not adopted the nominee system to say whether they will go in for that system.

Shri Nanadas: What are the concrete steps taken by Government to improve the quality of salt in the eastern districts of Madras State?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The reply that I gave applies to all the salt-producing regions in the whole of India.

Shri Raghavalah: From the answer given by the hon. Minister it is clear

that technical assistance is given to producers of salt, but I have made enquiries and I have been told that no technical assistance is given. May I know whether it is really a fact that technicians have been appointed to advise the producers of salt in the matter of increasing the production and also the sodium chloride content of the salt?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The hon. Member is suggesting that we should appoint technicians for this purpose. I have replied that we have established model stations. We have established test laboratories also. We intend having a salt research station at Bhavnagar. These are the steps that Government have taken. If the hon. Member's suggestion is that technicians as such should be employed in larger numbers, I can only say that it will be considered.

Shri Mohiuddin: May I know what is the percentage of dirt in the salt supplied by the manufacturers in the South from the Bombay and Madras States?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Salt according to what samples? In what regions? In what places? Without knowing the answer to all these questions, I cannot say what is the percentage of dirt.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know whether in regard to the salt-producing centres in the South time will be given in cases where the percentage of dirt is not according to the required standard, so that the salt industry will have an opportunity to adjust itself, and so that the industry may not be completely destroyed?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Time has been given. The percentage fixed for last year was 94 per cent. We reduced it to 93 per cent. with a view to giving time to the salt industry to adjust itself. In fact, the suggestion thrown out by the hon. Member has already been followed by the Ministry.

Shri Raghavalah: Are Government aware that no technical assistance is given to the salt producers in spite of the fact that the hon. Minister has instructed the different State Governments to do so?

Shri K. C. Reddy rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is this general question about? I would only inform the hon. Member that the hon. Minister has already said that all that has been provided. If in any individual case advice has been sought

and it has not been provided, then that case may be taken up with the hon. Minister. There must be complaints, but whether such and such a complaint has been there or not, and whether it has been enquired into or not.—these are too general questions. At least two such questions have been asked already.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I may add that Government have in view the starting of some more model factories; for example, one in Travancore; one in Orissa; one in Madras; and others in other areas. Government are considering a bigger plan for this very purpose of giving more and more technical advice to the salt industry, and in course of time I feel that even the hon. Member who put the question will be satisfied with the work that they have been able to do.

Shri Raghavaiah: Is there one such model factory in Andhra?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It will be considered.

Shri Nanadas: May I know what substantial progress has been made during the last year due to the technical knowledge given to the salt producers?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The quality of salt is improving gradually.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are administrative reports. Hon. Members may read them.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know the number of model farms, and also may I know how the information which is gathered from these model farms is disseminated to the salt producers?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I thought I had answered this question. There is a model farm at Wadala in Bombay, and then a model farm will be established in Tuticorin shortly. As I have said already, there are proposals to have a few more model farms and the work that is done in these farms will radiate and be disseminated.

Shri V. P. Nayar: But how?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Through the usual processes.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I would like to know what those usual processes are.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

• DEVELOPMENT OF UNDEVELOPED STATES

*1062. **Shri Beli Ram Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state what steps Government propose

to take to develop the undeveloped States like Assam, Orissa, Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh etc. and to bring them at par with the most developed States of India?

(b) What additional amounts have been provided to develop these States?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The problem of developing undeveloped States has to be dealt with in stages. Sometimes the non-developmental expenditure, such as strengthening the administration, is a prerequisite for stepping up the development expenditure. In determining the extent of the Central assistance to a State under the National Plan, the resources which can be raised internally as well as commitments in regard to continuing schemes are invariably taken into account. Moreover, there are certain schemes predominantly financed by the Central Government which benefit the undeveloped States.

(b) Amount provided for the development programmes of the various States are shown in the Five Year Plan.

Shri Beli Ram Das: What is the basis for the allotment of development schemes to these States? Is it done on the basis of population and area?

Shri Hathi: Not necessarily on the basis of population and area.

Shri Beli Ram Das: In making the allotments, is the backwardness of the State concerned taken into consideration?

Shri Hathi: That is one of the factors.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: What are the reasons, why the Planning Ministry has paid more and more attention in providing measures for more and more development to the more developed States and less and less to the less developed States?

Shri Hathi: That seems to be an inference.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Arising out of the reply to part (a), may I know why certain States have been excluded from such development work where resources exist to a great extent?

Shri Hathi: There are different items for different States.

Shri Raghavachari: May I know what are the items in which the Centre is prepared to aid the States?

Shri Hathi: The items vary in respect of different States. That depends upon the internal resources of the State and the scheme in question. Both these factors combined together will decide what particular item should be aided.

Shri Raghavachari: Has it been decided what these items are in respect of Madras?

Shri Hathi: I should like to have notice.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know if it is a fact that a committee has been set up for investigating the backwardness of Saurashtra with a view to developing it; if so, why have the other States not been taken into consideration?

Shri Hathi: I think the question should be addressed to the Ministry of States, not to the Ministry of Planning.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Has any criterion been laid down by the Planning Commission to judge which are developed States and which are undeveloped States?

Shri Hathi: Now, Sir, the question related to backward States like Assam, Orissa and Vindhya Pradesh, and I have given the answer to that question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: These are backward States. If hon. Members want to include some more, they may make the suggestion at the proper stage.

Shri Achuthan: Are we to take it that Orissa, which is a surplus province, is a backward State?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Some province may be backward in one thing and not backward in another.

Shri Achuthan: But what is the criterion?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

TRESPASS INTO INDIAN UNION TERRITORY BY FRENCH POLICE

*1063. **Shri Venkataraman:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to my supplementary question to Starred Question No. 445 asked on the 3rd March, 1953 and make a statement on the incident which occurred on the 21st February, 1953 of trespass on the Indian Union Territory by the French Police?

(b) What is the number of persons wounded in the incident?

(c) What is the nature of action taken by Government of India to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). The incident occurred on the Indo-French frontier near Netta-pakkam commune. There was a clash between some pro-merger refugees and the French Indian police who crossed the border to arrest Thulasisingam, one of the refugees. They succeeded in their attempt, but in the melee that ensued one of the Policemen sustained injuries which are reported to have proved fatal.

(c) A protest was lodged immediately with the French authorities at Pondicherry, who have proposed a joint enquiry into the incident. The matter is under consideration.

Shri Venkataraman: May I ask how many such incidents have occurred after the 21st February?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have no reports of similar incidents after the 21st February.

Shri Venkataraman: May I know whether Government have information that every time a meeting is held or a declaration is made by the pro-merger groups in the Indian territory's frontier there is a trespass by the French Police into Indian Union territory for the purpose of taking away the persons concerned?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: On several occasions in the past, we have information that the French Police had trespassed into our territories; but I do not think they have arrested our people.

Shri Venkataraman: May I know what has happened to Thulasisingam whom they carried away from the Indian territory?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There was a warrant of arrest against him and he is still in French custody.

Shri Venkataraman: Is it the way of the French Government to trespass into Indian Union territory and execute a warrant of arrest; could not they have any extradition?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is because of this that we have protested. They claim that they have not trespassed into our territory and that they were in their own territory.

Shri Venkataraman: What is the general enquiry to which the hon. Minister just now referred? Will it

consist of a member from the Indian Union territory and the French possession? Who are the persons who are going to constitute the personnel of that enquiry committee?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: As I said this matter is receiving our attention and it has not been finalised yet.

Shri P. T. Chacko: As a result of the protests made by the Government of India have the Government of the French Settlements ever punished any officer who was found to be guilty of trespassing into Indian territory and attacking the pro-merger people?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I would like to have notice of the question.

Shri N. P. Damodaran: In view of the unsatisfactory situation in and around the French Settlements has the Government considered the desirability of introducing passport system between India and the French Settlements in India?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Do the Government consider it possible to give directions to the border police to shoot at sight any French Police Officer, who comes into Indian territory?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

Shri Nanadas: Have Government received any reply to the protests made and if so what is the purport of that reply?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have said that they suggested that there should be a joint enquiry. Their case is this: that the French police were in French territory and not in our territory.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Is not a sort of passport system already in force with regard to French territories like Pondicherry,—at least those people who go to the Aurobindo Ashram they are required to produce some passports?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There is no regular passport system; perhaps, some permit may be required.

Shri Punnoose: Is it the policy of the Government of India to encourage the people on our territory to handle these policemen who come here in such a way that they do not repeat it?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: These are all suggestions.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether Government have considered the desirability of invoking the provisions of the Indian Penal Code and arrest them on some cognizable offence when they come into our territory?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: This matter is receiving our consideration.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether in view of the recurrence of such incidents, Government are considering any other steps than making mere protests?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: This matter has on various occasions been discussed on the floor of the House and the Prime Minister has made several statements with regard to our attitude towards these pockets. I do not think I can add anything more to it.

बनारसी वस्त्र

*१०६४. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) बनारसी वस्त्र उद्योग की अवनति इतनी तेजी से क्यों हो रही है ;

(ख) बनारसी तथा भारत में बने अन्य रेशमी वस्त्रों पर अमेरिका, पाकिस्तान, सीलोन, बर्मा, मलाया तथा ईरान द्वारा आरोपित आयात-शुल्क की दर क्या है ;

(ग) भारत में विदेशी रेशम पर आरोपित आयात तथा रक्षण-शुल्क की दर क्या है ;

(घ) क्या यह सत्य है कि पाकिस्तान में बना बनारसी वस्त्र भारत में बने बनारसी वस्त्र की प्रपेक्षा विदेशों में सस्ता पड़ता है तथा विदेशी मार्किटों तेजी के साथ भारत के हाथ से निकली जा रही हैं ; तथा

(ङ) इस उद्योग के विकास के लिये तथा विदेशों में इस की मार्किट के विस्तार के लिये सरकार क्या उपाय कर रही है ?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Reasons for the decline of the Banarsi Cloth Industry are high price of the cloth due to high price of raw material, change in fashion, and the loss of Pakistan market, due to high tariff rates levied by that country. The fall in the demand of cloth can also be attributed to the fact that Banarsi Silks are luxury articles, and under the present economic conditions the common man cannot afford to buy them.

(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 14.]

(c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 15.]

(d) From the reports received from our Commercial Representatives abroad, there is no indication that India is losing its market in foreign countries in Banarsi cloth. Information in regard to prices of silk goods of Indian and Pakistani origin, in foreign countries is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(e) The U. P. Government is considering the question of standardisation of gold thread to be used in *Saries*, standardisation of quality brocades and rendering financial help to weavers for purchase of raw materials.

Cottage Industry Products which include Banarsi Cloth are included in the list of articles available for export from India, in the Trade Agreements with foreign countries.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह: क्या इस बनारसी साड़ी का दाम पिछले दो वर्ष में आधा रह गया है अर्थात् आज इतना सस्ता हो गया है कि पहले से ५० परसेंट कम हो गया है ?

श्री करमरकर: शायद होगा। शायद न होगा।

Shri P. T. Chacko: Is it a fact that the Banarsi cloth is at present more costly in India than in Pakistan as a result of the incidence of various taxes and duties?

Shri Karmarkar: We do not think so; but we shall find out.

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: May I know whether it is the only industry of its kind in India where about 3 lakhs of people are employed?

Shri Karmarkar: It is a peculiar industry, I admit, but whether three lakhs of people are engaged in it I do not know.

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: How many such industries likewise are suffering?

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether the Banarsi cloth is hand-spun and hand-woven and what is the approximate annual production of it?

Shri Karmarkar: I thought Banarsi cloth is a brocade on cloth, either hand-spun and hand-woven, or machine-spun and machine-woven.

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी: क्या मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से पूछ सकता हूँ कि विदेशों में जो प्रदर्शनियाँ होती हैं उनमें बनारस की साड़ियों और बनारस के कपड़े का प्रदर्शन किया गया है ? यदि किया गया है, तो उस का क्या नतीजा निकला ?

श्री करमरकर: जी हाँ, प्रदर्शनियाँ की जाती हैं; उनमें यह कपड़ा रखा जाता है और जो इस को पसंद करते हैं वह लेते हैं।

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी: मंत्री जी ने अभी बतलाया कि बनारसी कपड़े का फैशन पुराना हो गया है। क्या सरकार ने कोई ऐसा मुझाव सोचा है जिस से कि इस कपड़े की भी तरक्की की जा सके ?

श्री करमरकर: हाँ, अगर माननीय सभासद हमें खबर देंगे तो हम कोशिश करेंगे।

सेठ गोविन्द दास: क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को यह बात मालूम है कि पुराना होने पर भी विदेशों में बनारसी कपड़ा सब से अच्छा समझा जाता है ?

श्री करमरकर: जी हाँ, सबसे अच्छा माना जायें यह हमारी आशा है।

श्री रामलाल ध्यास: क्या मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछ सकता हूँ कि बनारसी

कपड़े के व्यापार को कायम रखने के लिये और वह गिरता न जाय इससे बचाने के लिये अभी तक सरकार ने क्या क्या प्रयत्न किया है?

श्री करमरकर : मैं ने कहा कि इस बारे में यू० पी० गवर्नमेंट ठीक प्रयत्न करती है और हम से जितना हो सकता है उतना हम भी करते हैं। इल्लस्ट्रेशन के लिये मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि an adventurous Indian exporter in America came over to Banaras और हम ने उसे सहायता दी।

सैठ गोविन्द दास : जो विदेशी प्रदर्शनियां विदेशी विभाग से सम्बंधित होती हैं और जो विदेशी प्रदर्शनियां भारत सरकार के दूसरे विभागों के अंतर्गत कराई जाती हैं, क्या उन में इस कपड़े को रखने का प्रयत्न किया जाता है ?

श्री करमरकर : अभी भी रखते हैं। इस में कुछ प्रयत्न की जरूरत नहीं है। जब जब विदेशी प्रदर्शनियां होती हैं यह कपड़ा रखा जाता है और पसंद भी किया जाता है।

COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

*1065. **Prof. Mathew:** (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state at how many centres in the Travancore-Cochin State Community Projects work is going on and what progress it has made?

(b) Had the State Government recommended opening of other centres also and if so, what are those centres?

(c) Will the Centres to be sanctioned in future, be out of the list of those centres which have been recommended by the State Government?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Two. A statement is laid on the Table. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 16.]

(b) (i) Shertallai—Kuttanad Area;
(ii) Tiruvella—Rani Area.

(c) As in the past, selection will be made on the basis of recommendation made by a State.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know what is the total amount spent so far?

Shri Hathi: I would like to have notice.

Shri A. M. Thomas: I have gone through the statement. Is the Government satisfied with regard to the progress of work so far made? Is the Government aware that the works so far executed are only works which an ordinary village panchayat executes in Travancore-Cochin in one year?

Shri Hathi: It is yet only a beginning; as we proceed further I think the progress will improve.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Have all the officers necessary for the purpose been appointed?

Shri Hathi: Most of them have been appointed.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether, as a matter of fact, because of the delay in getting sanctions for the works proposed, these works are not being carried out?

Shri Hathi: As I have said on a previous occasion, it appeared that in the beginning these difficulties were experienced at different places. But the Government have looked into them and these difficulties have now been removed, and there is no cause for complaint at present.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Is the co-operation of the local Advisory Committee being taken in this connection?

Shri Hathi: Yes, at local places there are the Committees.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Arising out of the answer to part (a) of the question, may I know whether the Technical Co-operation Administration of America has spent any amount for this and, if so, how much?

Shri Hathi: Sir, generally these expenses are distributed between the dollar and the rupee expenditure. For the dollar expenditure we have entered into an agreement, and I have laid a copy of it on the Table of the House. And that agreement is also available in the pamphlet *The Community Project—A Draft Outline*. I cannot definitely say what amount has been spent on the several items mentioned in the statement where expenditure has been incurred.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: With respect to the expenditure incurred on these projects, may I know whether the accounts are kept by the American experts or by the State authorities or by both of them together?

Shri Hathi: By the States, of course.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: In the statement it is mentioned that five stud bulls have been ordered. May I know when they are likely to come to the spot and be available?

Shri Hathi: I have no idea. I would require notice.

Shri N. P. Damodaran: May I know whether the selection of new centres is left entirely to the discretion of the State Governments or the people's representatives will also be taken into confidence?

Shri Hathi: The States will naturally bear the popular view in mind.

Shri P. T. Chacko: Considering the particular conditions obtaining there, may I know whether the community projects in that State are doing any work which community projects in other States are not doing?

Shri Hathi: Which particular State?

Shri P. T. Chacko: Travancore-Cochin. The question is about that State.

Shri Hathi: I do not think there is any other special work which is being taken up there.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether any of the community project schemes which were inaugurated during last year have completed or done any work during this one year there?

Shri Hathi: I do not think—any particular work in that sense. But if you take works, by way of example, like digging some tanks or canals or constructing roads, some such works have been completed.

Shri Punnoose: The hon. Minister stated that two new centres are being considered as recommended by the State Government. May I know what stage this consideration has now reached and by what time it may be finalised and final orders expected?

Shri Hathi: By about the middle of next month.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether private organisations have recommended other centres?

Shri Hathi: I do not think.

Prof. Mathew: Whichever centre be selected now, will it be from out of the two centres already recommended or will it go beyond the range of the two centres?

Shri Hathi: That will all depend upon the recommendation of the State.

Prof. Mathew: But does not past recommendation bind?

IMPORT OF PAKISTANI JUTE

*1056. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Jute Mills Association has demanded some facilities for import of Pakistani jute on a liberal basis;

(b) if so, the main points of their argument in favour of liberalisation of import of Pakistani jute; and

(c) the decision of Government in the matter?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether it is a fact that the imports from Pakistan this year would be the highest, compared to the figures of the last two years?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: So far the imports have been under 11 lakhs—10.8 lakh bales. I cannot say the figure will exceed the previous years' imports.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether as a result of increased imports, prices as well as demand for indigenous produce will go down this year?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As I said, I cannot accept the fact that there will be any increased imports, except in respect of better grades of Pakistani jute. Therefore I am unable to answer the question which follows from this hypothesis.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether in view of the expected fall in the price and demand of indigenous produce, export of the surplus Indian raw jute will be allowed to foreign countries?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: This is again based on a presumption that there would be a fall with respect to indigenous produce. I am unable to answer the question on that hypothesis.

Shri B. K. Das: As a result of the recent agreement will there be any control on the quality of different varieties of jute that are going to be imported from Pakistan?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: At the present moment licences are not issued freely for what are called cross bottom qualities. But it appears there is a certain amount of demand for bale cuttings for use in the production of sacking. In view of the fact that sacking production has slumped and the sacking offtake is very low, it is unlikely that even that quality of Pakistan jute will be imported.

Shri B. K. Das: What will be the further import this year up to the end of June?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The real period is somewhere about September, and all that we have said is that if the mills need Pakistan jute we are prepared to license up to about 18 lakhs bales. So far very nearly 11 lakhs bales have come. But it depends upon the mills' offtake. There is no guarantee that they would take all the quantity. But we are prepared to license up to that point.

Shri L. N. Mishra: What is the reason behind the agreement to import as much as 18 to 25 lakhs bales of raw jute when our mills stand in need of only 9 to 10 lakhs bales of raw jute from foreign sources?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As I said, the agreement is that we would give licences up to 18 lakhs of bales. But it might be that we might need up to 25 lakhs of bales. That is the outer limit. But we are not bound to give licences for more than 18 lakhs of bales. That is the position.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether in view of the increased imports of Pakistan jute there will be a fall in the prices of indigenous jute?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In view of the fact that Indian prices are pretty low and also the fact that the Pakistan jute that would be imported would be of higher quality, Government do not feel that prices in India will be further depressed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The questions are over.

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH REGARDING CORRECTIONS TO CERTAIN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): Mr. Deputy Speaker,

Sir, while replying to supplementaries asked by the Members in regard to certain questions on the previous occasions, it has been subsequently found, that some statement of facts were not quite correctly made. I would, therefore, now like to correct those statements with your permission as under:

(i) while replying to a supplementary asked by Shri Lingam to Starred Question No. 1508 on the 7th July, 1952, regarding the proposal to reorganise the administration of the public school at Lovedale I had stated that there was no such proposal. I was however not then aware that the question of transfer of the management of Lawrence Schools at Lovedale and Sanawar to autonomous governing Boards was being considered by the Government of India. The two schools have since been transferred to the management of autonomous Boards.

(ii) (a) Shri S. N. Das had asked a supplementary question on Starred Question No. 1513 on 7-7-1952 and wanted to know whether the Prime Minister's Aid to Universities Fund had been created by any resolution or by order of the Government. The correct position is that the Fund is established by a Government Resolution which was published in the Gazette of India.

(b) Shri T. N. Singh also wished to know whether the grants which were made out of this amount were made in an ad-hoc manner or they were paid for some specific purpose. I wish to state in reply that the Fund is in the name of the Prime Minister and is administered by the Minister for Education who is the Chairman of the Fund. There is no Committee to administer the Fund at present.

(iii) While replying to a supplementary asked by Shri K. L. Balmiki to the Starred Question No. 1110 on 11-12-1952, the number of renewal applications received from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes candidates receiving post-matriculation education for Government of India 1952-53 scholarships was given as 1664 whereas it was actually 1874. The figure 1664 represented the number of scholarships actually renewed by then out of 1874 applications received.

These errors are regretted.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ROAD CONSTRUCTION WITHIN REFINERY PREMISES

***1051. Dr. Amin:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the cost of constructing roads within the premises of the refineries at Bombay, Madras and Calcutta will be borne by the Government and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

(b) What will be the cost and mileage of such roads at each refinery?

(c) Are other Indian industrial concerns given the same facilities?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) No oil refineries are being set up in Madras or Calcutta. As for the oil refineries under construction in Bombay, Government are not building any road within the refinery premises. Government are, however, arranging to construct through the Public Works Department of the Government of Bombay a new by-pass road from Sion to a point on the Sion-Trombay road to eliminate the railway level-crossing at Chunabhatti. This new road will serve not only the refineries but also other new factories in the area. For example, the 100,000 K.W. Power House which is being put up by Tatas, and the Indian Rare Earths Factory. More important still, the road follows the alignment of the Eastern Express Highway which would have been constructed in any case though possibly at a later stage.

The cost of the road is to be borne in equal proportion by the Government of India, the Bombay Government and the Bombay Municipal Corporation.

(b) The length of the by-pass road will be 6,574 feet, that is, about 1½ miles. The cost is estimated at Rs. 20 lakhs inclusive of an overbridge across the railway line.

(c) Such facilities are usually given whenever new factories of sufficient size and importance are opened in an area where adequate road facilities do not exist.

EXPORT AND IMPORT ADVISORY BOARD

***1052. Shri K. K. Basu:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Export and Import Advisory Board has been recently set up by Government;

(b) if so, on what basis the representation on this Board has been given and to whom; and

(c) whether the Associated Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, is represented on this Board?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The Import and Export Advisory Councils were first constituted on the 27th September, 1948 and the 11th May 1940 respectively. Both these bodies were reconstituted on the 17th November 1952.

(b) The President and the Secretary of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce are *ex-officio* members of both the Councils. The remaining seats are filled by Government in a manner so as to provide balanced representation to different interests, trades and regions.

(c) Yes, Sir.

WOOD SCREW INDUSTRY

***1053. Shri K. K. Basu:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Wood Screw Industries in India have closed down;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to place the Wood Screw Industry on a sound footing?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). Government have no precise information but are aware that some factories have temporarily closed down.

(c) A protective duty of 30 per cent *Ad valorem* has been levied on the recommendations of the Tariff Commission to place the industry on a sound footing. Other assistance is also given to the Industry in the form of supply of raw materials and purchase of indigenous product by Government Departments.

PURCHASE OF LAND AT BHUBANESHWAR

***1054. Shri Sanganna:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to acquire land in the Orissa Capital at Bhubaneswar by the Government of India in order to construct buildings for certain offices of the Central Government?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, when and for what consideration?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The land will be acquired at the development cost as soon as the actual area that will be required for the Central Government offices that will be located there, has been determined.

INDUSTRIAL HOUSING SCHEME IN PUNJAB

*1060. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any application from the Punjab Government for aid under the Industrial Housing Scheme since January, 1952;

(b) if so, what is the amount applied for; and

(c) how much has been granted?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government applied for a subsidy of Rs. 4,85,000/- for construction of 382 tenements at Amritsar, Ludhiana and Batala.

(c) Government have agreed to grant subsidy upto a maximum of Rs. 4,81,511/-.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES IN TRIPURA

769. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state how much amount was budgeted for the year 1952-53 for the development of cottage industries in Tripura?

(b) How much of it has been spent and on what industries?

(c) Are Government aware that certain popular organisations sought help of Government in developing cottage industries?

(d) If so, what was the response from Government?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Rs. 40,000.

(b) It is expected that a sum of Rs. 25,000 will be spent during the current financial year on the setting up of a training schools for cottage and small

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scale industries. Brief details of the expenditure are given below:

	Rs.
(i) Pay of establishment	1,060
(ii) Allowances and Honoraria	840
(iii) Contingencies	3,100
(iv) Construction	20,000
(Superintendent's quarter, School building and Office-cum-Store)	
	<hr/> 25,000

(c) and (d). Applications for financial assistance for the establishment of training centres were received by the State Government from several parties e.g. The Tripura Ganatantrik Nari Samity and Tripura Home Industry. None of the parties have so far been given any financial assistance.

As the State Government have themselves made arrangements for starting an Industrial Technical Training School with Peripatetic training arrangements, it was not possible for them to agree to the request of the Samity. The request of Tripura Home Industry is at present under examination by the State Government.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS TO PEOPLE OF TRIPURA

770. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state how many people of Tripura have applied for passports and visas for travel between India and Pakistan since the introduction of the passport system and how many have been granted the same?

(b) How many of them are businessmen, peasants and workers?

(c) How much goods have been detained in Pakistan due to passport difficulties?

(d) Who will bear the losses due to this detention?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Till the 13th March, 1953, 2514 applications for passports were received from residents of Tripura, and 1700 passports were issued. Visas for Pakistan are given by the Pakistan authorities of which the Government of India have no statistics.

(b) Of the 1700 passports issued till the 13th March 1953, 470 were granted to businessmen, 266 to peasants and 51 to workers.

(c) For a short period after the commencement of the Passport System, Pakistan check-posts did not allow porters to carry goods between the Indian and Pakistan check-posts,

on the grounds that they had no passports and visas. An arrangement was however reached with the Pakistan Government and the movement of goods between the check-posts was resumed. No goods are held up at Pakistan check-posts at present.

(d) Does not arise.

EXPORT OF PRECIOUS STONES

773. **Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the export of precious stones after being processed exceeds the import of rough uncut and unset stones?

(b) If so, by what percentage and what is the value thereof?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A statement showing import and export figures of precious stones and pearls (unset) during the years 1950-51 to 1952-53 (April-December 1952) is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 17.]

Separate figures for export of precious stones after processing and cutting are, however, not available, with the result that the percentage asked for cannot be worked out.

IMPORT OF LIQUOR

774. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether India imports any liquor from foreign countries;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the quantity of each kind of liquor imported during the years 1950, 1951 and 1952;

(c) the names of the countries from which it is imported; and

(d) the purpose for which it is imported?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 18]

The figures are for financial years since statistics are maintained only for financial years and not for calendar years.

(d) For potable purposes.

COTTON, SILK AND WOOLLEN CLOTH

775. **Shri Jajwara:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the internal requirement in India of cotton, silk and woollen cloth;

(b) the import of each variety during the last two years;

(c) the production in hand-loom of all these varieties; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to attain self-sufficiency in each variety?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 19]

CRUDE OIL FROM S.V.O.C. OIL REFINERY IN TROMBAY

776. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state what percentage of crude oil required for use in India could be obtained from the Trombay Oil Refinery set up by the Standard Vacuum Oil Company near Bombay?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): Crude oil is not produced in refineries but obtained as a mineral. In refineries, crude oil is distilled into various products like motor spirit, fuel oil and lubricants for use. Crude oil required for the operation of the Bombay refineries will have to be imported as Indian production of crude at present is very small.

COCOON RESEARCH

777. { **Shri Madiha Gowda:**
 Shri Keshavalangar:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what share of the expenditure of Cocoon Research in Mysore is met by the Central Government or the Central Silk Board?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): So far, grants amounting to Rs. 1,36,900/- have been paid by the Central Silk Board to the Government of Mysore for their various schemes on Sericultural Research which cover Cocoon research also.

BHAKRA-NANGAL PROJECT

778. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to furnish a statement showing the details of the work completed and the expenditure incurred on the Bhakra-Nangal Project up-to-date?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

BHAKRA-NANGAL PROJECT ENGINEERS SENT TO U.S.A. AND U.K.

779. Prof. D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) how many Engineers were sent to U.S.A. and U.K. in connection with the Bhakra and Nangal projects;

(b) what was the main purpose of sending them;

(c) how many of them are still in those countries; and

(d) what was the cost incurred in sending those Engineers abroad?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) 32.

(b) These officers were sent to study detailed designs and layout of the dam and power houses, installation of hydraulic equipment, and hydraulic experiments, foundation treatment and structural studies of the dam, erection of power house equipment, etc., connected with the construction of Bhakra-Nangal Project.

(c) 2.

(d) The total expenditure so far incurred on the deputation of these officers comes to about 8 lacs.

सीलोन में नागरिकता के अधिकारों से वंचित भारतीय

*७८०. **सेठ गोविंद दास :** क्या

प्रधान मंत्री भारतीय उद्गम के उन लोगों की संख्या बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे जो १९५२ में सीलोन में नागरिकता के अधिकारों से वंचित कर दिये गये हैं ?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the reply given by the Deputy Minister on the 3rd March, 1953, to part (c) of Question No. 455, in the House of the People.

FILMS FOR EXHIBITION IN COMMUNITY PROJECT AREAS

781. Shri K. C. Sodhia: (a) Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state the subjects selected for special films for exhibition in the Community Project areas?

(b) What is the total number of such films likely to be produced in the year?

(c) What will be the average cost of one such film?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) A statement showing the subjects tentatively selected in consultation with

the Community Projects Administration is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII. annexure No. 20.]

(b) 8 to 12 films per year.

(c) The cost of a film varies from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 25,000 depending on the subject, the locations to be covered and the time required to complete the film.

FEE LEVIED UNDER FORWARD CONTRACT ACT

782. Shri K. C. Sodhia: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether any fee is going to be levied upon Associations under the Forward Contract Act?

(b) If so, what is the scale of such fee?

(c) What is the appropriate number of such Associations?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) The matter has not yet been considered.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

PARKS AND GARDENS

783. Shri Badshah Gupta: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state the total amount of money spent on the maintenance of various parks and flower-gardens respectively during the year 1952 in Delhi and New Delhi?

The Minister for Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): The distinction between parks and flower gardens is not understood. Most of the parks do have areas under flowers. Taking all such parks together, the expenditure incurred on their maintenance during the year 1952 is:—

New Delhi	Rs. 3,31,300/-
Old Delhi	Rs. 2,78,100/-
	Rs. 6,09,400/-

GROUP AREAS ACT

784. Shri Jethalal Joshi: (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state when the Group Areas Act is likely to come into force in South Africa?

(b) How many South African citizens of Indian origin in the districts of Natal, Transvaal and in cities like Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth are likely to be adversely affected in regard to the loss of their land and property by the above mentioned Act?

(c) What is the estimate of the loss they are likely to suffer?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) The Group Areas Act came into operation in the Provinces of Natal, the Transvaal and the Cape of Good Hope with effect from 30-5-51 and in the Orange Free State with effect from 31-10-52. The Government of the Union of South Africa is taking active steps for its implementation and the proclamation of Group Areas in the Union. It is, however, not possible to say when actually the Group Areas are likely to be proclaimed.

(b) Cape Town—8000

Durban 1,46,000 under the Nationalist Party's plan before the Land Tenure Advisory Board.

1,17,000 under the Durban City Council's plan before the Board.

Port Elizabeth and other cities.

—information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House on receipt.

(c) Durban 30,000,000

Other cities—information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House on receipt.

MANGANESE AND IRON ORES (EXPORT)

785. Shri Deogam: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state how many tons each of Manganese Ore and Iron Ore have been exported from Vishakapatnam Port during the years 1951 and 1952?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): Figures of export required are as follows:—

	1951	1952
	Tons	Tons
Manganese Ore.	6,05,131	6,88,950
Iron Ore.	Nil	45,674

Volume II

No. 16



Saturday,
28th March, 1953

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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P.T.O.

PARLIAMENT SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price Six Annas (Inland)

Price Two Shillings (Foreign)

(ii)

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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

3121

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Saturday, 28th March, 1953.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

3 P.M.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT RE FIRING IN KOLAR GOLD
FIELDS

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement regarding the firing incident in the Kolar Gold Fields (Mysore), in pursuance of the undertaking given on the 24th February, 1953.

STATEMENT

The practice of beating drums on occasions like marriages, funerals, etc., has been in vogue in the rural areas of the Mysore State from time immemorial. The drummers engaged for this purpose are ordinarily persons belonging to the Adikarnataka and Adidravida communities who are members of the Scheduled Castes. The service rendered by these drum beaters to the villagers is remunerated by the payment of honorarium both in cash and in kind. Beating of drums on the occasions mentioned has come to be regarded as a hereditary right. The Scheduled Castes Federation in the Kolar Gold Fields has recently developed a feeling that such beating of drums is derogatory to the honour, prestige and social status of the Scheduled Castes. It tried to dis-

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suade the Adikarnatakas and the Adidravidas from beating drums, but this has been resented by the latter as an interference with their hereditary privilege. There were some instances when the members of the Scheduled Castes Federation belaboured some people for beating drums.

Following some incidents of this nature on the occasion of Shankranti festival and subsequent days, the police had to make some arrests. On 22nd February 1953 at about 1 P.M. a mob consisting of more than 300 persons proceeded towards Rodgers Camp with the intention of assaulting some of the complainants. Since a prohibitory order under section 45 of the Mysore Police Act was in force in the area the demonstrators were advised to disperse but they did not do so. Senior Police Officers arrived on the scene with a force of the Mysore Armed Reserve Police and asked the mob again to disperse. This also did not prove effective. By this time the mob became unruly and pelted stones at the police, and the Senior Superintendent of Police ordered a lathi charge and again warned the mob. The mob continued to pelt stones as a result of which five police officers and eight constables received injuries. The police had therefore to open fire in self-defence. Five rounds were fired and the mob dispersed. As a result of the firing one boy aged 14 was killed.

The Mysore Government have reported that the police acted with exemplary patience and resorted to firing only as a measure of self-defence when they found that they were likely to be over-powered. The ring-leaders who were responsible for the trouble have been arrested and further investigation is in progress. The situation was brought under control very quickly and all the mines are working normally.

HYDERABAD PAPER CURRENCY REPEALING BILL

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to repeal the Hyderabad Paper Currency Act No. II of 1927F and to make certain provisions incidental thereto.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is....

Shri Venkataraman (Tanjore): Should not the House know the reasons why the Bill is being withdrawn?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Whenever the vote of the House is needed on any particular subject, except in cases when Bills are sought to be introduced, at that stage normally there is no debate. I myself wanted to know what the reasons are to withdraw this Bill.

Dr. Katju: The reason is, Rule 140 says:

"If a motion for leave to withdraw a Bill is opposed, the Speaker may, if he thinks fit, permit the member.....

Otherwise, I would have said so. The House is aware that the Hyderabad State had a currency of its own. There were three kinds of notes, high denomination notes, one rupee notes and also eight annas, four annas, two annas and very low denominations. When there was integration it was decided that the Hyderabad currency should continue for a period of two years ending 31st March 1953. This Hyderabad currency is of a lower value than the Indian currency. I understand that Indian Rs. 100 is equivalent to Rs. 116 and odd of Hyderabad currency. Since 1st of April was approaching, this Bill was introduced in order to put the life out of the Hyderabad currency. Then we were informed that so far as the lower currency was concerned, namely rupee one, the peasants who were spread out in the rural areas had not had sufficient notice that this would become illegal currency and would no longer be tenable. Therefore, we have now decided to give a longer time. In this Bill it was given as six months. Now a longer time is allowed for the convenience of the people living in rural areas. For this purpose, I understand, a Bill has actually been introduced in the Council of States by the Ministry of Finance. This is the reason for withdrawing the Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to repeal the Hyderabad Paper Currency Act No. II of 1927F and to make certain provisions incidental thereto".

The motion was adopted.

Dr. Natabar Pandey (Sambalpur): On a point of order, Sir. While the House was

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no point of order. Relating to this matter? I will not allow anybody to say anything unless it is in the Order Paper. If he wants to raise any particular point, he ought to have given me due notice so that I may come prepared. I am not going to interrupt the proceedings.

Dr. Natabar Pandey rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I cannot have hundred eyes and hundred ears. I cannot read anything which is handed over to me immediately. I must know what it contains. Let me go through it.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

DEMAND No. 5—MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,16,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Ministry of Communications'."

DEMAND No. 6—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 40,33,54,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Indian Post and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)'."

DEMAND No. 7—METEOROLOGY

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 99,89,000 be granted to the Presi-

dent to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1953, in respect of 'Meteorology'."

DEMAND No. 8—OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 83,40,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Overseas Communications Service'."

DEMAND No. 9—AVIATION

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,70,67,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Aviation'."

DEMAND No. 10—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,56,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Communications'."

DEMAND No. 111—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,67,81,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Indian Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)'."

DEMAND No. 112—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL AVIATION

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,12,67,000 be granted to the Presi-

dent to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation'."

DEMAND No. 113—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,05,87,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Communications'."

Failure to implement recommendations of expert committee

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Anti-labour methods in dealing with trade union workers

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Anti-Communist campaign permitted by postal services on postal covers sent from Calcutta.

Shri Nambiar: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Living wage to non-departmental and extra-departmental postmasters

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair (Quilon cum Mavelikkara): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Necessity of absorbing all the non-departmental postmasters as postmen, if they are not qualified to be appointed otherwise

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Necessity of accepting a Kara as a village in Travancore-Cochin and not a Pakuthy.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Censoring of letters and telegrams

Dr. Natabar Pandey (Sambalpur): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Village Post Offices in Orissa and telephone and telegraph offices in district and sub-divisional headquarters

Dr. Natabar Pandey: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mode of accounting and consequent reduction of postal rates

Shri P. Subba Rao (Nowrangpur): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Better communications to villages and inadequate pay and allowances of village workers

Shri Sivamurthi Swami (Kushtagi): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure to implement "Post-Office for every village" Scheme in Travancore-Cochin

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Up-grading of pay scales of head-clerks of Circle offices

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri (Berhampore): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Reabsorption of retrenched telephone operators in Calcutta consequent on introduction of automatic system.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Grievances of lower grade servants

Shri Veeraswamy (Mayuram—Reserved—Sch. Castes): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Rates of postage

Shri Veeraswamy: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Communications in Madras State

Shri Muniswamy (Tindivanam): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Extra-departmental staff and policy of extension of postal services

Shri Muniswamy: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Increase of rates for registration, Insurance etc.

Shri Muniswamy: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Communications system in Malabar and South Kanara

Shri N. P. Damodaran (Tellicherry): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Postal holiday on Sunday and inconveniences to public

Shri N. P. Damodaran: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Increase of rates for registration, insurance and book-posts

Shri N. P. Damodaran: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need of mobile post offices in all important towns and villages

Shri N. P. Damodaran: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Absence of effigy of any South Indian poet, saint or poet-saint on postage stamps

Shri N. P. Damodaran: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to introduce stamps with effigies of statesmen, national heroes, scientists, social reformers etc. including such of them in South India

Shri N. P. Damodaran: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need for steamer and air communications facilities to Lacadive Islands

Shri N. P. Damodaran: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Postal and telegraph facilities to Lacadive Islands

Shri N. P. Damodaran: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Failure to make arrangements for postal seals and stamps in Hindi and telegrams in Hindi

Shri Ramji Verma (Deoria Distt.—East): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Grievances of lower-grade employees

Shri Ramji Verma: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Communications to villages and inadequate pay and allowances of village worker

Shri Ramji Verma: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Position of extra-departmental telegraphist sub-post-masters

Shri Ramji Verma: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Postal rates of post cards and envelopes

Shri Ramji Verma: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Repatriation of supervisory staff on deputation in Hyderabad

Shri Vittal Rao (Khammam): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Fiscal policy

Shri Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Separate Circle for Hyderabad

Shri Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Accommodation in G.P.O. Delhi

Shri Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Contract to Hyderabad State Road Transport Department for carrying mails in preference to private contracts

Shri Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Confirmation of temporary employees

Shri Vittal Rao: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Application of Safeguarding of National Security Rules 1949 against Posts and Telegraphs Department employees

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

System of split duty work in G.P.O. and other post offices in Calcutta

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Representation to Scheduled Castes in services

Dr. Jaiav-vir (Bharatpur-Sawai Madhopur—Reserved—Sch. Castes): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Distribution of dak in villages from nearest post office

Shri Dasaratha Deb (Tripura East): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Absence of daily dak system in Tripura

Shri Dasaratha Deb: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Grievances of lower grade employees and management of officers, staff etc.

Dr. Natabar Pandey: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Aviation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need for improving and using aerodrome at Cannanore

Shri N. P. Damodaran: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Aviation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Heavy hours of duty of employees and service conditions

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Aviation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Labour policy depriving recognition to Civil Aviation Employees Union

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Aviation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Nationalisation of civil aviation

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Aviation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Policy of subsidisation of aviation companies

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Aviation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Necessity of connecting Gorakhpur with a scheduled air route

Shri Ramji Verma: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Aviation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Disuniformity in departmental and extra-departmental services

Kumari Annie Mascarene: (Trivandrum): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay on Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All the Demands for Grants and the cut motions are now before the House for discussion.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In discussing the Demands placed before the House by the Ministry of Communications, I propose to proceed somewhat in telegraphic fashion because there are a very large number of items to which I would like to draw the special attention of the Ministry but before I do so, I would like to pay my tribute, not, I am afraid, to the Ministry, but to the magnificent personnel who conduct the operations of our Communications Department. I was very happy to see that in the report of the activities of the Ministry for 1952-53, there is an admission by Government of the importance of the people who man the services. The real capital in this Ministry is not the money which is invested—actually it is not very much—but as the report itself says:

"The large number of staff employed over a wide area covering as it does, the length and breadth of the country".

I would like to pay my tribute to these people who in remote corners of our country are carrying on a most valuable work in a very efficient fashion.

Before I proceed to the Posts and Telegraphs Department, I would like to say only one word about the employees of the Civil Aviation Department because these people have the distinct honour of having successfully formed a single Union of their own. Last October all their Unions were amalgamated and the joint Union has nearly 100 per cent. membership and there is not one outsider on its Committee of office-bearers. In spite of

it, however, this Union is not recognised and the hon. Minister, I understand, has not even extended the courtesy of a single official interview which was asked for repeatedly on behalf of this Union. On the contrary, many of the officials of the Union are charge-sheeted and penalised for incidents connected with the pursuit of the Union's activities. They have been refused permission to hold meetings on the very specious ground that their residential colonies are under the control of Government.

I shall leave to the other hon. Members to refer to Civil Aviation and I shall now turn to P. & T. as it is called. This is our biggest State undertaking next to the Railways and in connection with this there is a paradox which, I think, it is about time that we seek to resolve. Often before in this House it has been said that there is a kind of contradiction in the attitude of the Government regarding the operation of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. Is it a public utility concern or is it a commercial undertaking? If it is a public utility concern, certain considerations have to be gone into in regard to the way it is being operated. If it is a commercial undertaking, certainly certain other criteria have got to be adopted. For example, in regard to the price of post cards, in regard to expenses of carrying registered newspapers from one part of the country to another. All that has to be computed in a very different fashion if it is a commercial undertaking. But, the trouble is that the employees of this Department, who number hundreds of thousands, are having the worst of both the worlds. They are not getting the advantage of this Ministry being a commercial undertaking; nor are they getting the advantage of this Ministry being a public utility affair. On the contrary, they are getting the worst of either side. An adjustment is certainly possible, and this paradox can be resolved. At least, we can make an effort. Repeatedly in this House, the point has been raised that we should have a Parliamentary Commission. For example, I would point out that telephones and to a lesser extent the telegraph system give us a surplus. We have to see that the goose continues to lay golden eggs. Only the other day it was the Postal Department which was surplus. Now, the whole picture has changed. We have got to do something in order to make sure that a real adjustment takes place and this paradox is resolved.

The Deputy Minister, answering questions on the 10th of November

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

last year, pointed out that many post offices had been opened and in the first six months of 1952 the loss on account of the opening of these post offices amounted to Rs. 20,10,631. The opening of these post offices is very important, very necessary. But, we have to find out ways and means of seeing that at the same time this kind of loss is not incurred. It may be a difficult problem; but it has got to be tackled.

Then, again, we find that in 1941, for example, pay charges amounted to 66 per cent. of the expenditure. In 1950, the percentage comes down to 60·2. It is pertinent to mention that the traffic handled has more than doubled in volume in this period, and there is also an increase in the rates. But, the emphasis on expenditure has shifted to items other than pay charges. The pay charges in the P. & T. are perhaps the lowest as far as the Central Government Departments are concerned. Naturally, the employees draw the inference that this is being done at their cost. They have this feeling. It has got to be tackled. It can be tackled only by some sort of mechanism like a Parliament Commission which has been repeatedly suggested.

Again, the postal branch shows a steady loss. It is very marked in 1952-53: 223 lakhs. To tackle this, the Finance Minister suggested that rates should be put up on book posts, registration and insurance fees, etc. This is by no means satisfactory. Something has got to be done which would be in accord with the desire of the people. That, certainly, has not been attempted in any serious manner so far, as far as the Ministry is concerned. The profits of the telegraph branch also have progressively dwindled. There are all sorts of reasons for that, which the Government does not care to bother about. An uneconomic rate of rent is collected in respect of telegraph wires which are rented to the Railways. These were fixed 20 years ago and the rate was even reduced three years ago. But, in the meantime the cost of copper wire and the maintenance of this apparatus has arisen a great deal. About Rs. 1·8 crores seems to be given away to the Railways. I do not want a sense of competition between the Railways and the P & T. But, if the P. & T. is to run properly and if the employees of the P. & T. are going to have a fair deal, this kind of giving over to the Railways a revenue which ought naturally and legitimately to come to the P. & T. is a matter which should be considered.

In regard to the telephone system, we find that there is a steady income so far. Unless there is a real plan, however it will come to a full stop. Unless you link it up properly, which you have not done so far in the Five Year Plan, you really cannot expect that the telephones would go on yielding the kind of very satisfactory revenue which it is doing in recent years. In connection with the telephone system, I have to refer to the Calcutta automatization and there the Damocles sword of retrenchment in five annual dribblets is always hanging over as many as 1000 employees. I want an assurance, and I would be happy if the hon. Minister can tell us, that this fear of retrenchment should not be there. I understand that the first batch of 150 people to be retrenched would have to go out by May or July this year. I want an assurance that this kind of thing will not happen. I know that these people can be absorbed in other departments of our activities.

In regard to amenities to staff, this is a matter which is intimately connected with the interests of the workers. It is interesting to notice that there is an increased provision for medical aid. But, it is disconcerting and I should say almost paradoxical to see that much of the amount budgeted for medical aid lapses from year to year. I find, for example, from 1948-49 right up to 1952-53, a major portion of the budgeted amount for medical aid lapsed. In 1952-53, Rs. 310,000 was the amount provided. Only Rs. 113,000 were spent. Something must be very rotten in this state of Denmark. If this is the position, it means that our postal employees do not want medical assistance. They do want medical aid, but they do not get it. You have not got a rational provision; you do not make such arrangements as could be availed of by the common employees. Then, again, I understand that there are such terrible provisions as that class IV employees' families, in contradistinction to the families of the people higher up, are not entitled to hospitalisation facilities. This is a kind of thing which should stop. We talk very glibly here fine phrases about a classless society in the present regime. But, if we mean business at all, this kind of discrimination should go. There is very little provision for tuberculosis patients. I understand something is going to be done: about 170 beds or something. But, I am sure, if figures are taken, it will be discovered that a very large number

of P. & T. employees are in need of special treatment for tuberculosis. In most centres, there are no facilities; there are no Government hospitals. That is perhaps the reason why the medical aid provision is not properly utilised.

I find also in certain places Class IV employees are not even allowed to use the lifts in very high buildings. Actually, I was present at a meeting in Calcutta where lower grade postmen and telegraphists voiced the grievance that they were not allowed to use the lifts when they had to go upstairs to the 4th or 5th or 6th floor. I want the hon. Minister to make enquiries and stop this kind of thing. This adds to the work load upon them. They often have to carry ten seers of articles and to go upstairs without having access to lifts only injures their health.

Then, there is the question of accommodation in the offices. I find that the Accountant-General has criticised the uneconomic expenditure on leasing by the Postal Department of rented accommodation for offices. I do not see why the Central P.W.D. has no separate wing for the P. & T. There is actually a building programme mentioned in the report circulated to the Members. But, the P. & T. has no resources to complete this building programme. That is why the P. & T. offers very restricted accommodation in the post offices. There is often no water; there are not even lavatory facilities. I understand that in the Calcutta G.P.O. where a very large number of people work, water supply facilities are by no means enough. In Delhi, for example, there is a post office in the fruit market, which is situated in a store room for fruits: there is no light, no facilities for ventilation. I understand that in New Delhi, the Deputy Minister himself went to a meeting in a post office; I think the Director General also was there. They saw for themselves the horrible conditions in which people have to work and gave some directions for the provision of electric fans or something to mollify to a certain extent the distress of the employees in the New Delhi G.P.O. The RMS sheds in the Railway stations are about the worst in the whole paraphernalia of Railway construction. Railway stations are re-built. But, as far as the RMS goes, it is the Cinderella and nothing is done about it. I find also that in Vinay Nagar and Lodi Road colonies, the post offices are situated in inconvenient rented houses. There is no reason for that.

This is Government property. You can easily find some good accommodation for the Postal Department. In the Constitution House for example, the post office is situated at a dead-end so to speak. You have to go a long way. I do not see why it could not be situated near the reception room.

There is a place in New Delhi in Queensway, called the Taj, which, I understand, is P. & T. property. It seems to be under American occupation and since the Americans do not vacate, the Department is put to a lot of difficulty to find alternative accommodation which is just as good. I would refer specially to the observations made by the Swiss Secretary of the Posts and Telegraphs Workers International who came here last year, who said that the conditions in which postal employees work in this country are inhuman. Now, the Government of our country likes bats on the back from foreigners, but this comes from a foreigner with no "subversive" inclinations—he belongs to a very respectable international trade union organization—he said the conditions in which Indian Posts and Telegraphs workers are working are pretty inhuman.

I find also that in the RMS Running Section, they do not get a weekly off-day, and then, the Expert Committee's recommendations on the reduction of working hours, on the computation of duty periods and many other items have been rejected. In West Bengal, those who were asked to work on Sundays and holidays, got no allowances. In the Delhi Mail motor service, the woes of the workers are increasing. The extra-departmental assistants get pay which is absolutely unsuitable as far as any ordinary, normal, human kind of living is concerned. Because of the "split duty" system in Calcutta, as far as postmen are concerned, those people have to come to the post office at about five or six o'clock in the morning, and they cannot get back to their homes till about seven o'clock in the evening. In regard to this, assurances were given by the Director General as well as, as far as I know, by the hon. Minister himself, but nothing has been done in regard to the elimination of this "split duty" system.

There are so many other difficulties about which I have not got the time to make any reference. There are some who had failed to opt in time for the Pay Commission recommendations of pay. They are still left in the lurch even though their

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

case is deserving of very sympathetic consideration as I could understand even from my talk with the hon. Minister. Revision should be made of scales of pay, and the lot of telegraphists and telegraph peons—especially when there are so many refugee colonies to supply letters and telegrams too, it is very difficult for them to work because these refugee colonies have no numbered hutments. In the bustees also it is very difficult to find out where people live. So these people are working under very difficult conditions

I shall refer, then—there are so many other things in regard to the amenities of the workers about which I could say a lot, but I have not got the time—to the abuse, I should say, of the so-called Safeguarding of National Security Rules, in its application to the cases of workers. I find, for example, such charges are made as attending a "May Day" meeting, or advocating that Members of the Legislative Assembly and Parliament should be moved to take up particular cases. I remember having gone to a meeting where large numbers of genuine post office employees were agitating for the reinstatement of a gentleman called Saroj Chatterjee who had worked for about 15 years or so, and had an unexceptionable record. Now, there is a widely held feeling that people are pushed out by the utilization of the so-called Safeguarding of National Security Rules. They get very vague charges, and they are kept hanging in mid air for a very long time. For example, there is the case of one K. G. Bose who was appointed in 1941. He was made permanent in 1944 and he has been under suspension since 31st March, 1949. It is nearly 48 months, four years now, that he has been hanging in mid air, so to speak. There are so many other cases here. The Government Servants' Conduct Rules are exceedingly stringent as far as they go. On top of this, you keep the Safeguarding of National Security Rules which is really the last straw on the camel's back. I know, perhaps, when the Home Ministry's Demands are placed before us, we shall have another opportunity of referring to this abuse of the Safeguarding of National Security Rules, but I want to impress upon the hon. Minister that it is very necessary in the interests of the morale of the post office employees that this kind of abuse should cease without delay.

I would refer, then, to another matter which is, to my mind, of very

great importance. We are almost getting rather accustomed to the censoring of letters which goes on with impunity. Last year—I find from the debate—a Member from the Congress benches spoke of the Postal Department giving facilities, which were rather objectionable, to agents of the Police who go to every post office and collect the letters addressed to certain people. Now, this sort of thing, that there is censoring of correspondence, not in war time but in peace time, is a matter about which any normal democratic Government ought to be ashamed, but there is another matter also to which I want to make a reference, and that is, the anti-Communist bias of this administration. I know more or less where we stand, but I want to be very clear about the position. We ought really to know how exactly this Government wishes to behave. I want to be certain if the Government of this country wants to behave as the Government of the United States of America is behaving at the present moment. I ought to know where we stand. I know to a certain extent, but not entirely, and we have the right to know where exactly we stand. And that is why we pointed out in the course of the debate on Foreign Affairs that we have found that the post offices of our country are lending themselves illegitimately to anti-Communist propaganda of the most blatant description. On that occasion this House was shown copies of newspapers where facsimiles were printed of the envelopes on which anti-Communist propaganda are embossed. They were shown to this House last time in the course of the Foreign Affairs debate, but, of course, we never get answers to these very relevant questions which are put up. We do not get answers. I want to raise that matter again. I have in my hand two envelopes addressed, one to a book shop in Connaught Circus, and the other to another address in Delhi. These two covers are coming from Calcutta. One is dated 12th January, 1953, and another is dated 24th of January, 1953. They both have got embossed on their cover, along with the postage stamp, an inscription which says: "Communism has nothing to offer but chains". Now, these gentlemen who sent these covers are very welcome to hold whatever opinion about Communism they choose to do, but the Government of India, the Postal Department, has no business to permit this kind of thing being done. I say the Postal Department is responsible for it, because I do not think that without the permission of

the postal authorities, this kind of embossing could be done. Here is the two anna stamp or something—the stamp is here and the label is here. Both these come from Calcutta, and they show that the whole thing is embossed at the same time. They cannot be done separately. It is done at the same time, and the Post Office must have given permission to these people to use this kind of inscription along with permission to use the postage stamps of this fashion. These are not stamps. This is merely an embossing of the postage. They do it in this fashion. I propose to lay on the Table of the House these two covers in order to bring home to the Minister of Communications the importance of this issue. I have already mentioned it on the occasion of the Foreign Affairs debate. I got no satisfaction. There is a cut motion to this effect in the name of my friend Mr. Ananda Nambiar which says:

"Anti-Communist political campaign permitted by the postal services on the postal covers sent from Calcutta in January, 1953."

These are the covers, and these show the spirit in which the Postal Department is working at the present time.

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): Have you come across similar instances after January?

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I am not concerned at the moment with what the hon. Minister has come across. I am only concerned with a statement by the hon. Minister in regard to the responsibility for this kind of thing. If the hon. Minister can tell me that stamps can be put on postal covers in the fashion that it has been done on these two covers.....

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That is not my point.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee:.....without permission from the postal authorities, that is a different matter. I would ask the hon. Minister not to interrupt me at this moment.....

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Carry on.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee:...but to take very careful note of what I am saying. I want him to go into this matter carefully, and not to stand up now and interrupt without knowing the facts about the situation. He need not refer to what is happening

in other cases. This is a very concrete instance of what I am trying to point out. If I am told that the Postal Department has no responsibility for it, then I am sure I shall accept his statement, but if I am told that the Postal Department has given this kind of permission to certain parties in order to carry on this propaganda on covers which are used for purposes of communication, then, of course, that would be another story. I relate this incident to the entire policy and methods of administration of the Communications Ministry. And the amenities to the staff are so inadequate and the conditions of work are still so very very unsatisfactory merely because the Communications Ministry, like the rest of the other Ministries in this Government, are not concerned about improving the living conditions of our common people, and that is why they are administering this Ministry in a fashion which I certainly cannot commend, and I therefore support the cut motions which are before the House.

Shri Venkataraman (Tanjore): I join my friend Mr. Hiren Mukerjee in paying a tribute to the two hundred thousand workers engaged in this great and grand national undertaking. I also include among them the officers of the Ministry, to whom my hon. friend Mr. Mukerjee was reluctant to pay his compliments.

I shall briefly deal with one or two points which Mr. Mukerjee has stated, before proceeding to some of the points which I desire to make.

Firstly, Prof. Mukerjee said that a certain amount of money is due from the Railways, and that if that money were realised, the employees of the P. & T. would be able to earn better wages, or get better conditions of employment. I would like to remind this House that the employees of the Railways as well as the P. & T. are governed by the Central Pay Commission scales, and that the salaries and wages are not dependent on what the Departments earn, but on considerations of the needs of Government servants, and the amount necessary to maintain themselves, and to lead a normal healthy life in this country, which has been assessed by the Central Pay Commission, and fixed as such. Therefore, I would like to show to this House that the mere book adjustment or transfer of certain funds from one account to the other, or of taking more money from the Railway administration into the P. & T. cannot, and will not, in any way, help the cause which he tries to espouse.

[Shri Venkataraman]

The second point that I would like to deal with is this. Prof. Mukerjee was very very sorry for those persons who had to walk a few yards from their rooms in the Constitution House to the Constitution House Post Office, but I am going to place before this House the fate of all those hundreds of thousands of villagers living far far away from towns, from cities and civilisation, and from the mad-ding crowds, who have to walk miles and miles, five or sometimes ten miles, before they can see the sight of a post office. In that connection, though we must congratulate the Government on their endeavour to establish post offices in every village having two thousand population, they are losing sight of a very vital point, namely that those villages which have a population of two thousand may be so situated in certain areas that they may be within a few furlongs from a post office, whereas in other areas, they will be miles and miles away. In the constituency from which I come, the post offices are a rarity, and people have to walk nearly five to six miles before they can see one of them. Therefore, I would urge on the Government to revise their policy with regard to the establishment of post offices, not merely to confine the establishment of post offices to places where there is a two thousand population, but to see that within a reasonable distance, say, within three miles of each and every post office, there is one post office established, whether or not, there is the requisite population. Otherwise, it will cause a great deal of hardship.

With regard to the distribution of these post offices, I have a very grave complaint. At page 16 of the report of the activities of the Department, I find that Bihar gets 744 rural post offices, as against 715 post offices for the whole of the rest of India.

An Hon. Member: What are the figures?

Shri Venkataraman: I will read the figures. At page 16 of the report of the activities of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, you will find that Bihar gets 744 rural post offices, as against 67 for Madras, 65 for West Bengal, and about 64 for Bombay, while the total for the whole of the rest of India comes to only 715. It gives me a sort of envy that I would like to migrate to Bihar rather than stay in Madras.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: But a Bihari would like to go to Madras.

Shri Radhelal Vyas (Ujjain): You will not have other facilities there.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I would like to go to Madras.

Shri Raghavachari (Penukonda): Does the hon. Minister come from Bihar?

Shri Venkataraman: I would earnestly plead for a more equitable distribution of the location of the post offices in all parts of India, and if there are any deficiencies I do not wish that they should not get a preferential treatment or a little more.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: There is no question of preferential treatment. It is related to two thousand population.

Shri Venkataraman: The hon. Minister will certainly be able to explain why one State is able to get much more than all the other States are able to get. But I would say, considering the locality from which I come, the difficulties which I face, the complaints which my constituents voice day in and day out, and the lack of facilities for me to contact my constituency, that there should be a more equitable distribution of the location of these post offices in the country.

Then, I come to the next point, viz. the finances of the P. & T. Department. The working of the P. & T. Department certainly shows a very satisfactory position. But I would suggest that a percentage, even as we have fixed a percentage on Railways, should be made payable by the P. & T. Department to the Central revenues. Just like the convention which we have adopted for the Railways, there should be a convention that four per cent. on the capital outlay should be paid to the general revenues. That is the sort of dividend which the people of India would get on the services which are now being performed by the P. & T. Department.

Then, with regard to the amount also, I feel that the Posts and Telegraphs Department would not be able to spend all the amount which has been set apart for them in the Five Year Plan. In that Plan, a sum of Rs. 50 crores has been set apart, for spending in the expansion of the P. & T. Department. So far we have spent only about Rs. 20

crores, including the budget estimates for 1953-54. The balance of Rs. 30 crores will have to be spent within two years, namely in 1954-55 and 1955-56. I wonder whether the Government would be able to absorb this amount in developmental expenditure. Otherwise the allocation for the P. & T. Department would lapse. One earnest suggestion would be to increase the civil and engineering works of the P. & T. Department. My friend Mr. Mukerjee pointedly drew the attention of the House to the somewhat unconscionable rent being paid by the P. & T. Department, giving almost a suspicion that certain persons are being favoured by being given high rents for their properties. Now the only way by which we can get over this complaint is to start more and more building works, and if the C.P.W.D. is not able to manage, my suggestion would be that the P. & T. Department should have a civil engineering section for themselves, so that they may develop the building works, and the housing of the works people.

With regard to the stores, I find that there is a sum of Rs. 4.40 crores in stores. A body of experts was asked to go and investigate into the efficiency of the stores. We do not know what the result of that investigation is. The House would like to know how much of those stores are now obsolete and are not fit for use. The habit of carrying obsolete stores which are no longer useful is continuing. The amount of stores which are or have become obsolete should be mentioned, so that the people might know the real total assets in the shape of stores that are available for use in the future.

I shall now deal with one or two other matters which concern the public. I read a report sometime ago that the post offices intend to allow savings bank accounts to be operated by cheques. This is a very welcome suggestion. If they allow the post office savings bank accounts to be operated by cheques, there will be greater incentive for the rural people to put money in the post office savings bank and be able to draw it by means of cheques. This should be pursued vigorously. The introduction of the cheque system should be expedited as much as possible.

The post offices are also in charge of postal insurance. Now the postal insurance is for one or two defined categories of Government employees. I do not see why the industrial em-

ployees of the Government—for instance, the employees in the Government of India telephone factory or the people employed in the Cordite factory in Aravangadu—should not also be allowed to have this facility. I will go one step further and say that wherever established concerns want to allow their workmen to insure under the postal insurance scheme, facilities should be available to them. My feeling is that if we spread the postal insurance scheme over the whole of the area of the poorer classes, the pace of nationalisation of insurance will be quickened. It will be far easier to nationalise insurance at a certain future date if we spread this postal insurance over the poor classes of people.

I want to deal with one or two matters relating to staff. The first point is regarding the denial of medical facilities to class IV servants. The class III and other people have got medical facilities for treatment of themselves and their families, but these are not available to the class IV employees.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair]

There is no reason why the class IV employees should be excluded from the medical benefits and I am quite sure that the Government would very sympathetically consider extending these facilities to them.

A few postmen have been promoted as clerks. They have been working very satisfactorily for over a period of six to seven years. In some cases their record of service has been unblemished and has been very good. But now, I understand that the Postal Department is holding a qualifying examination after such a long time to see whether they could be confirmed as clerks. This is very unfair to these people who have been allowed to work as clerks for a period of six years, to be told that they must sit for a qualifying examination at the end of that period. If their record has been good, the Department ought to be able to confirm them as clerks without making them sit for another examination, and I hope, that this matter also will receive the consideration of the Government.

Then there is another class of people who have been very hard hit—the war service candidates. At the time when the war service candi-

[Shri Venkataraman]

dates were taken in, they were told they would be fitted into the grades of pay which they were drawing in military service. Now in the military service they were drawing several kinds of pay. They had got kit pay, they had some other allowance and all that; but the basic pay was small. If these people were fitted into that grade in which the other postal employees were to be employed, then you would find that those who had put in larger years of service and people who had served in the war would be on a lower grade than those who were recruited directly in the service. Now, as a result of the Pay Commission's recommendations, every one is started on the minimum of the scale with the result that the new entrants get as much as those persons who have put in some years in war service. I do hope that the Government will look into this matter and do justice to these people.

I have to make a special plea with regard to the telephone system in Madras. The Madras Telephone Central Exchange has almost outlived its existence. It is a question of renewing the Exchange. I understand that the District Manager also wrote a pathetic letter explaining the condition of the Central Exchange. We would urge on the Government to make efforts to renew this Central Exchange of the Madras telephone system at their earliest convenience.

श्री शिव ब्याल उपाध्याय (जिला बांदा व जिला फतहपुर): सरकारी राष्ट्रीय संस्थाओं में रेलवे के बाद इस विभाग का बहुत बड़ा स्थान है, रक्षा और विकास की दृष्टि से यह मुहकमा अपना सानी नहीं रखता। यही कारण है कि जब शत्रु कभी किसी देश पर आक्रमण करता है

तो वह पहले इसी प्रकार के साधनों को अपन अधीन करना चाहता है। मुझे क्रीट देश की वह अवस्था याद है जब गत महायुद्ध में जर्मन सैनिकों ने अंग्रेज अधिकारियों के तमाम ऐसे साधन अपने हाथ में कर लिये थे और उसक कारण उन्होंने क्रीट देश को अपने अधीन कर लिया था।

जहां तक इस विभाग की प्रगति का प्रश्न है, मैं समझता हूं कि गुण और संख्या दोनों की दृष्टि से इस विभाग ने बहुत उन्नति की है और इस के लिये मंत्रालय हम लोगों की तरफ से बधाई का पात्र है। जहां तक संख्या का प्रश्न है, मैं समझता हूं कि यदि हम इसकी विभिन्न कार्यवाहियों का मुकाबला ३१-३-४८ और ३१-३-५२ के बीच में करें तो यह नतीजा साफ तौर से निकलता है कि हमारी प्रगति बड़ी संतोषजनक रही है। आप देखेंगे कि जहां ३१-३-४८ में देहाती क्षेत्रों में डाक घरों की संख्या १९१८१ थी, वहां ३१-३-५२ में वह बढ़कर ३६५०१ हो गई। इसी प्रकार जहां नागरिक क्षेत्र में डाकखानों की संख्या ४१६० थी, वह अब बढ़कर ५५८३ हो गयी। टेलीग्राफ के क्षेत्र में भी इसी प्रकार से बहुत काफी उन्नति हुई है। ३१-३-४८ में जहां टेलीग्राफ आफिसों की संख्या ७३३० दिखलाई गयी है, वहां उनकी संख्या ३१-३-५२ में बढ़कर ८२४० तक पहुंच गयी है। इसी प्रकार टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज २४०७ से बढ़कर ४२५५ तक पहुंच गये हैं। पब्लिक कोल आफिसों में भी बढ़ोतरी हुई है जहां उनकी संख्या पहले केवल ७७९ थी, वहां अब उनकी संख्या बढ़कर १४७० तक पहुंच गयी है। इसी प्रकार टेलीफोन कनेक्शन्स जहां पहले एक लाख चौदह हजार नौ सौ बाइस थे, वहां अब करीब एक लाख चौरासी हजार हो गये हैं।

इस प्रकार यदि हम संख्या की दृष्टि से देखते हैं तो हम केवल एक नतीजे पर पहुंचते हैं और वह यह है कि हम ने संख्या की दृष्टि से पर्याप्त उन्नति की है। हम ने प्रायः व्यय की दृष्टि से भी पचास प्रतिशत बृद्धि की है। हिन्दी तारों की संख्या जहां पहले ७८०१ थी वहां अब वह बढ़ कर १७०१३

हो गई है। इसी प्रकार हवाई डाक इतने दिनों में २७ प्रतिशत बढ़ गई है। आगामी योजना के अनुसार १५० नवीन तार घर खोलने की व्यवस्था की गई है। इस प्रकार से जब हम तीन सालों का मुकाबला करते हैं अर्थात् सन् १९४८ से सन् १९५२ तक का तो निर्णयक दृष्टि से यह पाते हैं कि हम ने संख्या की दृष्टि से काफी उन्नति की है।

गुण की दृष्टि से भी इस विभाग ने काफी उन्नति की है। देहातों में इस बीच में ज्यादा ध्यान दिया गया है जिस से यह कहा जा सकता है कि जिन गांवों की आबादी दो हजार की है उन में प्रायः सभी में एक सब डाक घर बन गया है। हिन्दी तार की व्यवस्था की गई है यह भी एक बड़ी अच्छी बात है। हमारे कर्मचारियों में अब कार्य तत्परता बहुत काफी बढ़ गई है। समय की बचत के लिहाज से भी हम ने काफी उन्नति की है। जहां तक ईमानदारी का प्रश्न है, यह विभाग अपनी मिसाल नहीं रखता। मैं चाहता हूं कि दूसरे विभाग भी इसका अनुसरण करें। यदि वह ऐसा करेंगे तो देश का बहुत बड़ा कल्याण हो सकता है।

सब से अच्छी बात यह है कि भ्रष्टाचार के उन्मूलन के लिये विभाग की तरफ से एक विशेष व्यवस्था की गई है और उस के कारण यद्यपि इस में भ्रष्टाचार पहले भी कम था, केवल लड़ाई के समय में कुछ उत्पन्न हो गया था, पर इस नई व्यवस्था के कारण भ्रष्टाचार बहुत दूर तक समाप्त हो गया है।

शिकायतों की सुनवाई के लिये भी जो व्यवस्था की गई है उस के अनुसार शीघ्र ही कार्रवाई होना सम्भव हो गया है।

इस बीच में हम ने विशेषों से भी सम्पर्क स्थापित किया है। हम इस विभाग का मशीनीकरण करने के लिये भी बहुत जल्दी कदम उठाना चाहते हैं। यह सब इस बात

के खेतक है कि हम ने संख्या और गुण दोनों ही दृष्टि से इस विभाग को काफी उन्नतिशील बनाया है।

परन्तु अभी हमारा आदर्श बहुत दूर है, इस में दो रायें नहीं हो सकती कि हमारे जो साधन हैं यदि वे सीमित न होते और हमें दूसरे प्रकार की व्यवस्थाओं और भ्रमों का काम न करना होता तो हम बहुत आगे बढ़ गये होते। हमारे विरोधीगण जो कभी हमारे कार्यों पर आक्षेप करने लगते हैं, इस विभाग पर या अन्य किसी विभाग पर, तो वह यह बात बिल्कुल भूल जाते हैं कि कोई भी कार्य अचानक जादू की लकड़ी से नहीं किया जा सकता। प्रत्येक कार्य के लिये एक समय की प्रतीक्षा करनी पड़ती है। प्रत्येक कार्य संतुलित करना पड़ता है, देश के अन्य मामलों को भी देखना पड़ता है और इस दृष्टि से जब हम देखते हैं कि इस विभाग ने क्या किया है तो हमें लगता है कि उस का कार्य सर्वथा सराहनीय है।

अंत में मुझे जिन सज्जनों ने आक्षेप किये हैं उन से यह कहना है कि वे जब कभी कोई आक्षेप करें तो उस को संतुलित होना चाहिये। वह आक्षेप केवल आक्षेप के लिये न हो। हम एक ऐसी परिस्थिति से गुजर रहे हैं जिस में हमारे देश की बहुत सी मांगें हैं, बहुत सी आवश्यकतायें हैं, उन सभी आवश्यकताओं को देख कर के हम को अपना कार्यक्रम बनाना पड़ता है। यदि आज हमारे पास बहुत साधन होता, यदि आज हमारी परिस्थिति ऐसी होती कि हम सभी कार्य अपना सकते तो इस में कोई दो रायें नहीं हो सकती कि हम सभी चाहते कि सब कार्य एक साथ कर लिये जायें। परन्तु दुर्भाग्य से हमारी परिस्थिति ऐसी नहीं है। हमें एक एक कार्य को उस के महत्व के अनुसार देखना पड़ता है, सभी दूसरे कार्यों को देखते हुए हम उस पर ध्यान दे सकते, अतः

[श्री शिव दयाल उपाध्याय]

हम इस दृष्टि से देखते हैं तो जो कुछ भी इस विभाग ने किया है, मुझे लगता है कि वह सन्तोषजनक है। हमें यदि आब सेर आटा खाना है तो हम को सारे आटे को एक साथ एक कौर में खाने की चप्टा नहीं करनी चाहिये, अन्यथा वह हमारे शरीर में बहुत बड़ी कठिनाइयाँ पैदा कर सकता है।

अंत में मुझ यही कहना है कि जिस प्रकार से शरीर के लिए स्नायु मंडल की आवश्यकता है, शरीर के विकास और रक्षा के लिये उसकी आवश्यकता है, उसी प्रकार डाक और यतायात विभाग हमारे राष्ट्र के स्वास्थ्य के लिये आवश्यक है। उस की रक्षा के लिए भी और उस के विकास के लिए भी। मैं भगवान कृष्ण के उन शब्दों को यहां पर दोहराना चाहता हूँ जिसमें उन्होंने कहा है :

युक्ताहार विहारस्य युक्त चेष्टस्य कर्मसु।
युक्त स्वप्नावबोधस्य योगो भवती दुःखहा।

कोई भी काम संतुलित रीति से ही ठीक किया जा सकता है। यदि संतुलन बिगड़ जाता है तो कार्य भी बिगड़ जाता है।

Shri Jaipal Singh (Ranchi West—Reserved—Sch. Tribes): With the repatriation of what one hon. Member called the 'Rafian' nuisance, I feel I should today declare an armistice and not take up once again cudgels against my hon. friends.....

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I welcome that,

Shri Jaipal Singh:because now there is a new regime and it is only fair that the change that has come about should be given an opportunity to show itself. Then, if it should become necessary at a later stage, I shall certainly put my gloves on again.

Several people will be talking about Posts and Telegraphs and so I would like to restrict myself to Civil Aviation. Once again I would repeat my counsel to Government that they should seriously reconsider the question of assigning Civil Aviation to the Ministry of Defence. I have given my reasons before and today, after

four years, those reasons have become all the more essential and cogent. I will give only a few instances to prove how necessary it has now become that the matter of Civil Aviation should be transferred to the Ministry of Defence. During the Demands for Defence we have been discussing the question of long-term integrated programmes and policies in regard to Defence. Civil Aviation is the second line of defence. From this alone it becomes obvious that it cannot be as efficient or effective if it is away from the Ministry of Defence.

Last time my hon. friend the Minister of Communications in making a vain attempt to contradict my charge assured us that there was no friction whatever between his Ministry and the Ministry of Defence.

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): There is none.

4 P.M.

Shri Jaipal Singh: I will take my hon. friend not far from the House; I will take him only to Palam. What is the position in Palam Aerodrome? This belongs to the Indian Air Force but Civil Aviation is also using it. As you know, Palam is one of the three international air-ports we have in this country which has not got the modern and up-to-date international operation facilities. Dum Dum has, Santa Cruz has but not so Palam. I am talking of the modern, up-to-date international operational facilities; I am not talking of little chirags that you put down in every big aerodrome. Now, what is the position? There is constant and continual friction between these two organisations. I will only leave it at that because I do not want to go into details. But the fact is, if you go there today you find that there is no improvement in any way, there are no modern lighting facilities, no better runways are developed. The Air Force says Civil Aviation should do it and Civil Aviation says the Indian Air Force is responsible for development. If Government accept my suggestion and put Civil Aviation under Defence, the question just does not arise. If Palam happens to be too near to my hon. friends, I would like to take them a little farther away to Hyderabad. Let us go to Begumpet. Civil aviators use that aerodrome only for a few landings but the Indian Air Force is there and has been wanting it. My hon. friend, however, says that the Indian Air Force cannot have it. The country is one. The Government is one. De-

fence should be one. There are so many other reasons. You have already in operation various flying clubs and you have now got the National Cadet Corps. That is a defence scheme. It has to be operated through my hon. friends' organisation. There again, I do not say that there is friction. I am not saying that there is friction in every Department of aviation—military or civil. But I do maintain that there is no necessity for having a separate thing. Why should there be this need of even having two separate things near each other, whereas if it is under one roof, the thing becomes automatic and there is no scope for friction and all difficulties are obviated.

After having said that, I would like to point out that there is still plenty of room for development in the matter of Civil Aviation. I know my hon. friend has already made the first reading of the Airlines Nationalisation Bill. I would like to know, when he replies, when the second and third readings will take place, because it is very, very important that this question of nationalisation of airlines should be definite. Government have said various things at different times and we now find that they are procrastinating the implementation of some of the promises that were made. It is very, very necessary to my mind, specially from the point of view of the employees, there should be a definite statement that Government are going to take over by a certain date. The situation at the present moment is indefinite and workers from top to bottom in Civil Aviation are undergoing not only physical harassment but mental worry also, which perhaps few people know; I will give only one or two instances, because I know that there are people in this House who have made a special study of labour problems in this country and they will be in a better position than myself to expatiate on those problems.

Would you believe it when I say that there is a senior scheduled airline that today has the audacity to employ co-pilots without any salary. They get no uniform allowance. There is no transport to take them to the aerodrome or back home. Nor they get any board. Is that the type of direction that the country expects from the Civil Aviation Directorate? This is the situation that has been brought about by the previous regime by flooding the market with pilots and others who could not be absorbed in the industry or in defence or anything else like that.

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In this report we are told that the C.A.T.C. at Allahabad has produced, during the period under review, one B pilot and two Assistant Pilot Instructors. Of course, there is the conversion course. In the past I have bitterly criticised the C.A.T.C. I think it is superfluous. I have accused Government of under-mining the work of the various flying clubs, on which Government itself spends so much. It would be spending next year Rs. 13.9 lakhs, and yet it is duplicating the work and competing with the flying clubs. We were told that this was done with a view to teaching the flying clubs to improve their standards, so that there would be better teaching, and so on. I ask the Government: Have they invested something like Rs. 60 lakhs to Rs. 80 lakhs at a particular centre for the purpose of producing one B pilot? Look at the record of the flying clubs. The ten subsidised flying clubs, during the same period have trained 115 A pilots and 65 B pilots. Compare the figures. Government is spending Rs. 13.9 lakhs on the flying clubs, but on this single institution at Allahabad they are spending an equivalent amount, but what are the results? I am not trying to play about with statistics, because I will be told that there are many other things being done there. I know that there is ground work training, there is the conversion course and the like. But I do maintain that it is uneconomic,—in fact, it is foolish—for Government to cut the ground under its own feet by taking away work which rightly belongs to the flying clubs. The flying clubs have an excellent record. If you are not satisfied with the maintenance of the standards of A or B pilots, what you have to do is you should have one standard of examination. At the present moment, each instructor has his own standard. If you are trained in Madras and you become a B pilot, you become a B pilot of one standard, whereas if you are trained at the Delhi Flying Club, you have another but higher standard. There is no common standard. We should appoint, say, an Indian Air Force examining body or something like it, I mean an all-India examining body. Thereby we would have only one standard and there would not be this problem. I suggest that Government have failed to carry out their promises in regard to the C.A.T.C. at Allahabad. I would like my hon. friends to tell me how many trained pilots left them and how many among them found employment. As a matter of fact, when some of them appeared before the U.P.S.C. for appointment as aerodrome officers, not one of

[Shri Jaipal Singh]

them was accepted. This is the record of a Government institution. It only goes to prove my contention that this brave endeavour was quite unnecessary. The work would have been carried and still can be carried on by these subsidised flying clubs.

Coming to some of these flying clubs, I do not know what plans my hon. friends have got. I daresay they have some. All I can say is this. If my hon. friends are in a position to give us now, or at a later stage, the cost of training pilots at the C.A.T.C. at Allahabad, it would be illuminating. As far as I am concerned, I accept the Master Committee report. I really do not know why though the Budget Session is on, that report has not been placed on the Table of the House. I wonder whether it is because the findings have been very derogatory to the administration in this particular connection. It may be that Government are still considering the report, but I would like to know from the Minister when Parliament will have an opportunity to have copies of this report.

There is not very much time left and I will not go into details but I wish to say that last year I did not get a very satisfactory reply about the Curtis Commandos. I know that Government have been in difficulties over this. I fully sympathise with them. You have to sympathise with a man if he does not listen to you and thinks that he is wiser. What else can you do except sympathise with him. By their not listening to us and by relying solely on their own non-technical direction, we lost the opportunity of earning at least one million dollars. Now, I do want to know what has happened. At what stage are those Curtis Commandos? Have they been sold? How many of them have been sold and have left this country? What are the financial implications of the deal that Government have entered into, and with whom? I would like to have definite information if the hon. Minister can give it.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am not in charge of that. Ask the Minister of Supply and Disposals who is not here.

Shri Jaipal Singh: I would like my hon. friend—again he might say that it is not within his jurisdiction—to take steps to remove the discrimination that exists in our country in regard to Indian nationals flying and aliens flying. Whenever Indian nationals go abroad, they get exactly the same treatment as the nationals of the country where they receive their training. Here we discriminate

against foreigners. To my mind it is very unfortunate. The amount that will be involved will certainly not be very much, because there are not many non-Indian nationals in this country who are learning flying. I do not think it would cost the Government very much money and it would be a very good move. It would be one way of reciprocating the generous treatment our nationals get when they go abroad.

Again the Ministry has much to improve its services in regard to civil aviation control. I know this problem is being thrashed out by the hon. Minister. So, I need not go into details. I will only give one instance as to what I mean. Whenever an accident takes place, we generally think it is the pilot who is to blame. Unfortunately, whenever there is an accident and it is fatal, the man is not there to tell us exactly how things happened. Now I find that our control is such that pilots are forced, as it were, to obey their "control" orders. Up in the air it is the commander who should make the decision. You may give him instructions, but it does not mean that he must obey the instructions. He knows best whether he has petrol; he knows best whether his aircraft would be airborne. So, he must take the decision himself. But if you do not obey control orders you lose your licence. That is not the way to handle the problem. I have only given one instance; there are very many things where we could, as it were, liberalise our attitude towards the man who does not want to commit suicide, but perhaps by our being over-strict and not giving him the freedom that is enjoyed throughout the world, we, as it were, make him commit suicide and along with him kill so many people.

In the end I would like to add a few words of my own by way of paying a tribute to Dr. Ghadge for the splendid work he has done in producing HT 2. It may not be a wonderful thing by way of comparison with other aircraft, but the very fact that at H.A.L., Bangalore, we have been able to produce an aircraft is an achievement. The engine may be imported, but the rest of it has been built and designed by an Indian, everything has been done by Indians. I think it is something to be very proud of and I do hope this question of producing aeroplanes will be pursued more vigorously. I see no reason why we should eternally be dependent on other countries. Why can we not produce under franchise aircraft our-

selves like other countries? But we seem to put all our eggs in one basket and that basket generally happens to be British, as if the British were the only people in the wide world to give the best for this country.

With these few words, I would like to ask my hon. friend that if there are points in what I have said which he is unable to answer right now, or later on when he is replying, I would certainly like him to pass on that to his various officers, so that at least after two years, I get some satisfactory reply.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Chittor): The Postal Department is one of those departments of Government which we have always considered to be manned by people who have up to now remained honest and full of integrity, one of the few departments in our country, the men employed in which we can look upon as honest. But in these people who have been honest, slowly and slowly, some sort of corruption is creeping and we must guard against this—being surrounded by the whole corrupt world, a world of their own, of Government servants, this corruption should not overwhelm them. It is with this desire that I speak before the House today.

But what is happening? As the Deputy Leader of the Communist Party in the beginning said, we are not very clear about our whole conception of this Department—whether we are running it as a commercial concern, or whether we are running it merely as an auxiliary Government department. It is this difficulty which is creating a sort of suspicion in the minds of the employees. At the same time surrounded by the economic circumstances in which they find themselves, they also try to behave like railway employees whom we cannot convert to honesty.

Shri Nambiar: That is not true.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: May be for you.

Shri Nambiar: They are not here to defend themselves.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: I have, however, noticed that the tendency of the employees not behaving well with the public is not so much in the Postal Department as it is in the Telegraph Department. The Telegraph Department shows good returns. So, as in the case of the Railways, the worker thinks that it is his labour that earns so much, so he must get more. That is the feeling among the workers.

What happens? A sort of bottle-neck takes place at various places. Formerly, in olden days, when we used to send telegrams for six annas, the telegram would reach its destination immediately and people used to wonder at the facility to flash out news within half an hour. But today you try to send an ordinary telegram to any outlying area. It does not reach and you are forced to send only an express telegram. You spend double the money and still you are in the lurch whether the telegram would reach at all. Probably a man walking the distance would have reached the destination, earlier than the telegram.

An Hon. Member: Use the wireless.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: The wireless will not work and the telegram will not work.

Shri Nambiar: Who is responsible—not surely the workers.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: I will give you an instance of what happens. We have got direct circuits from one place to another. Yet under certain orders of the Postal Departmental heads to allow certain telegraphists and certain supervisors to earn more on the telegraph exchanges orders have been passed that you should not work from a particular station to a particular station where the direct circuit exists. All the telegrams must go through a particular terminus station and from that terminus station telegrams will go back. This is duplicating or triplicating the work which ordinarily, two or three years back, was being done by the direct circuit.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Will the hon. Member favour us with a specific instance of this?

Shri U. M. Trivedi: I shall give you. Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity.

Neemuch for instance is a head office having a telegraphic circuit direct to Indore, direct to Ajmer and direct to Udaipur. But if Neemuch wants to send a telegram to Indore, Ratlam, and Mandsaur, although there is a direct circuit, it is not allowed. Neemuch has to send the telegram to Ajmer and Ajmer sends it to Indore. Neemuch cannot send a direct telegram to Udaipur. Neemuch has to send the telegram to Ajmer and Ajmer sends it to Udaipur. If the number of telegrams that pass through an exchange exceeds 150, a certain payment is made. I have given you a specific example. You get the instances repeated in Ahmedabad and Baroda.

[Shri U. M. Trivedi]

The other matter to which I wish to draw your attention is this. Recently I have heard, and I should say that I have heard painfully, that about one thousand lady telephone operators are to be retrenched. People who enter service do so with a desire that they might continue and follow a particular career. After having given them that position it is not desirable, from the point of view not only of keeping up the prestige of the Department but also of keeping them employed, to tell them 'you are being discharged'. Government should make every effort that these lady operators are not removed from service and discharged in this uncere- monious manner.

The next point I wish to make is this. We are not trying to develop in any manner the various postal amenities and facilities that are avail- able to the public in other countries. You go to the United Kingdom. You deposit in the savings bank of any post office there a certain sum of money and have a savings bank pass book issued to you. You go over with that pass book to any part of the United Kingdom, and without getting that book or your account transferred you just carry that book with you and show that book to any post office you like. You can al- ways withdraw a sum of £ 3 at any place any time. Why not afford that facility here in India? Why not in- crease the facilities to the public? We are having savings bank accounts all over India; savings banks in post offices do exist all over India. Why should we not introduce this system? We must learn to develop and im- prove our things in such a manner whereby the public is benefited.

There is not enough time to discuss a big Department like this and to dis- cuss the big expenditure of this De- partment. But I was noticing one pertinent thing. Why is the Audit Report of even 1950-51 not available so that we may discuss the various things? This is an ordinary matter and the reports should have been made available to the Members of this House so that we may be able to know how things are working.

There is one other matter to which I wish to draw your attention. The telephone rates that are made avail- able to us are sometimes unremunera- tive or uncertain, and any kind of explanation is given to fit the oc- casion. You can send a telephone call from Hindaun to Neemuch at a

particular rate, and from Neemuch to Hindaun at another rate! You can send a telephone call to a distance of twenty-five miles for four times the amount for which you can send a telephone call to a distance of two hundred miles! Why does such a system prevail?

There is another important feature, and that is the last matter to which I shall draw your attention. Under the Defence of India Rules and the Defence of India Act you had a cer- tain provision whereby the police were officially authorised or allowed to look into your correspondence and censor them. Those Defence of India Rules and Defence of India Act are gone. The Preventive Deten- tion Act, a child of that time and of those provisions, is still there. But that does not provide for the reading of your correspondence. There is no law in existence which can allow the use of the post office by even the district magistrate or the police to pounce upon all your correspondence and try to read them. This must be guarded against. If you have got a criminal and there are orders by the district magistrate specifically for the purpose, if under the criminal law, under the Criminal Procedure Code an order is passed by the district magistrate or the magis- trate concerned to look into a parti- cular correspondence or a particular postal article or packet, you may do so. But with very great respect I submit that you must guard against this. The sanctity of postal corres- pondence for which the Postal De- partment has deserved a reputation for honesty and integrity should re- main. The hon. Minister should look into this state of affairs and not al- low the police or the magistracy to interfere with the ordinary corres- pondence of the people and bring down that name to their own detri- ment.

श्री बी० आर० वर्मा : (जिला हरदोई-
उत्तर पश्चिम व जिला फर्रुखाबाद-पूर्व व
जिला शाहजहांपुर-दक्षिण-रक्षित-अनु-
सूचित जातियां) : हमें आजादी मिलने के बाद
से हमारे कम्युनिकेशन्स विभाग ने जो कार्य
किया है वह सराहना करने योग्य है, फिर
भी ऐसा कि कहा जाता है कि "हिन्दुस्तान
गांवों में बसता है", इस लिये इस विभाग
के द्वारा जितनी भी अधिक सहाय्य

गांव वालों को दी जा सके दी जायें तभी हम यह जान सकते हैं और यह कह सकते हैं कि इस विभाग ने काम किया है। हम देखते हैं और पिछली मर्तबा यह कहा गया था कि प्रत्येक गांव में डाकखाने खोले जायेंगे परन्तु मैं अपने ५० पी० की बात कहता हूं कि ५० पी० में ऐसे बहुत से गांव हैं जिनमें दो हजार से कहीं ज्यादा आबादी है, परन्तु वहां अभी तक डाकखाने नहीं खोले गये हैं। मैं इस लिये एक सुझाव देना चाहता हूं कि अगर प्रत्येक गांव में डाकखाना खोलना संभव न हो, तो उत्तरप्रदेश में तो पंचायतें स्थापित हैं, आप ग्रामपंचायत के हैडक्वार्टर पर एक एक डाकखाना खोल दें, इस तरह से आपके ग्रामपंचायत के हैडक्वार्टर पर डाकखाना खोलने से उस हैडक्वार्टर के चारों ओर दो तीन मील के फासले के अन्दर २ बसने वालों को डाकखाना खुल जाने से बड़ी सहूलियत और सुविधा होगी। यही नहीं मैं तो चाहूंगा कि आप प्रत्येक अदालती पंचायत के केन्द्र में एक एक सबपोस्ट आफिस खोलें, जहां से गांव वाले रजिस्ट्री करा सकें, रुपये जमा कर सकें और मनीआर्डर कर सकें और टेलीग्राम कर सकें। टेलीग्राम की सहूलियत जब तक गांव में नहीं दी जायेगी तब तक गांव वालों को बड़ी मुसीबत उठानी पड़ती है और उठानी पड़ेगी। गांव वालों को मैं देखता हूं कि तार देने के लिये १०, १० और १५, १५ मील दौड़ना पड़ता है तब कहीं तार दे पाते हैं। अगर यह भी संभव न हो सके तो कम से कम इतना तो कर ही दिया जाना चाहिये कि जितने टाउन ऐरियाज हैं, जितने मोटीफाइड ऐरियाज हैं, उनमें सब पोस्ट आफिसेज हों, जहां पर टेलीफोन करने की व्यवस्था हो और तार आदि भेजने का इन्तजाम हो और मनीआर्डर करने व रजिस्ट्री करने और रुपये जमा करने का भी प्रबन्ध हो।

मैं देखता हूं कि हमारे गांवों के रहने वाले या तो अभी तक अनपढ़ हैं और अगर कुछ पढ़े लिखे भी हैं तो हिन्दी के सिवा और कुछ नहीं जानते। इस के अतिरिक्त मैं यह भी देखता हूं कि इस पोस्ट एंड टेलीग्राफ विभाग में हर एक फार्म चाहे मनीआर्डर का फार्म हो, चाहे तार देने का फार्म हो, या और कोई पुस्तक हो, हर चीज अंग्रेजी में ही नजर आती है। मैं तो यह कहूंगा कि "अंग्रेज यहां से चले गये लेकिन अंगरेजियत अभी भी बाकी है"। इस लिये मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह प्रार्थना करूंगा कि टेलीग्राफ और डाक विभाग के जितने भी कागजात हैं वे सब हिन्दी में हों। मैं तो यहां तक कहूंगा कि मुहर भी हिन्दी में ही होनी चाहिये और तार देने का फार्म तथा तार देने की व्यवस्था भी हिन्दी में ही होनी चाहिये ताकि एक देहात का आदमी भी उस को पढ़ कर अपने आप उस को भर सके और उस को भरवाने के लिये इधर उधर भटकना न पड़े।

हमने बहुत से कार्य इस विभाग में किये हैं, लेकिन गांव वाले उस से बिल्कुल अपरिचित हैं, इस लिये कि इस विभाग का जितना भी लिट्रेचर छपा जाता है सारे का सारा अंग्रेजी में होता है और गांव वाले उसे पढ़ ही नहीं सकते, उसे समझ ही नहीं सकते कि उन के लिये यह विभाग कुछ कर भी रहा है। अतः इस विभाग का सारा लिट्रेचर हिन्दी में ही छाप कर गांवों में वितरित करने की व्यवस्था की जाये ताकि गांव वाले जान सकें कि उन के लिये हमने क्या किया है।

इस के अतिरिक्त मुझे एक बात और कहनी है और वह है हरिजनों के सम्बन्ध में। इस विभाग में मैं देखता हूं कि हरिजनों की

[श्री बी० आर० वर्मा]

संख्या शून्य के बराबर है। जितने बड़े बड़े अफसर हैं उनमें एक भी हरिजन नहीं है। पोस्ट मास्टर्स हैं उन में भी शायद एक भी हरिजन नहीं होगा, जितने क्लर्क्स हैं उन में शायद एक या दो फी सदी हरिजन हों। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह प्रार्थना करूंगा कि कम से कम इस विभाग में जिसके अध्यक्ष हरिजन हैं, हरिजनों का जितना रिप्रेजेंटेशन होना चाहिये उतना नहीं है, यह बड़े दुःख की बात है। इस लिये मैं कहूंगा कि कम से कम ढाक तार विभाग में हरिजनों का पूरा रिप्रेजेंटेशन होना चाहिये। उन का कोटा पूरा होना चाहिये।

मेरे जिले हरदोई में एक कस्बा पाली है, उस के निवासियों ने कई एक दस्तावेजों कि वहां सब पोस्ट आफिस कर दिया जाय, आबादी वहां की पांच हजार की है और टाउन एरिया भी है, लेकिन अभी वहां सब पोस्ट आफिस खोलने का कोई प्रबन्ध नहीं किया गया है। वहां सब पोस्ट आफिस ही नहीं बल्कि तार और टेलिफोन की व्यवस्था भी कर दी जाये तो बड़ा अच्छा है क्योंकि वहां के निवासियों को शहर आने के लिये करीब १५ मील चलना होता है। बीच में नदी पड़ती है। कभी कभी तो बरसात के दिनों में नदी पार करना भी मुश्किल हो जाता है।

मैं अधिक न कह कर श्रीमान् कम्यूनिकेशन्स मिनिस्टर को बधाई देता हूं और अनुदान का समर्थन करता हूं।

Shri Sarmah (Goalghat-Jorhat): I associate myself with the well-deserving tribute extended by the various Members of the House from both sides to the splendid personnel who are rendering yeoman service in the matter of communications in this great country. I go a little further that our hearty thanks go to the Ministry as well as to the higher officials although I am constrained to say that

certain of them being very highly placed have not been able as yet to bring themselves to the position of appreciating the difficulties of the lowest officers, I mean category IV. India is a big country. I heard Prof. Mukerjee saying that it is inconvenient to walk a 100 yards to reach the Constitution House Post Office. Mr. Venkataraman was saying that it takes miles and miles for one to reach a post office in his constituency. I come from a State where you will be walking for a whole week at a reasonable speed. You will reach the end of the week but you will not reach the vicinity of a post office anywhere. That exists even today and at the same time I must congratulate the Department for doing great and extensive work during the last few years. A friend to my right was saying that he could reach a certain place walking but an ordinary telegram could not reach its destination. If I take the Delhi Mail this morning at 8-30 from Delhi and go all through by rail, by the fastest connected trains, I will reach my place, a head-quarter town on a main North Eastern Railway—meter gauge portion—on the fifth day. If I go by rail I reach on the fifth day but if I drop a letter in the South Avenue tonight before 8 P.M. it reaches my place at 2 P.M. tomorrow. So it will not be proper on my part if I do not extend my wholehearted support to this Department. Quite a lot has yet to be done, but for what has been done any country and any Ministry can certainly take pride.

We may not have many things new to say because things are not moving since we spoke in this House last year. What is the fundamental financial policy underlying the operation of this Department? In the Five Year Plan we find—para. 88—that "this Department is responsible not only for communication services for the general public but also for such specialised sections as the commercial community, the Press, the railways, the canal administration and the Defence Services. It is primarily a public utility department but is run on a commercial basis so as not to be a burden on the general revenues." It is quite understandable that in a country which was under foreign rule for a long time and in which there are many things to be done, a mixed policy may be adopted wherein the public will be served and the Government also may not be running a working loss. I submit that now it is time that this Ministry should apply their mind to chink out

a clear-cut policy as to whether the Posts and Telegraphs Department is going to be a public utility service or is it going to be run on commercial basis? Let me try to elaborate the matter. I am told that the post card which we buy for nine pies costs near about 12·3 pies each.

Shri Raj Bahadur: 13·2 pies.

Shri Sarmah: I stand corrected. The cost of production and service of a post card comes to 13·2 pies each. This entails a loss of one crore 32 lakhs to the Department. We all know that India is a poor country. The post card is a necessity for the poor man. Although on a thorough investigation, it would be found that many times more post cards are used in cities and towns than in the villages. Any way I am not here to suggest that the price of a post card may be raised. But, looking at the question from the stand point of policy, if the Ministry really means to make it a public utility service then, nobody would quarrel for selling a post card at nine pies whereas it actually costs 13·2 pies. If it is said that it is run on a commercial basis, it is difficult to understand how the Ministry can reconcile these inconsistent positions. If the post card is sold at nine pies and it costs 13·2 pies at whose cost, may I ask, is the public served? Ours is a welfare State. But, at whose cost, may I ask is the service to the public tendered in this Department? If it is not at the cost of the poor employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, at whose cost? Because, whenever any question of amenity for the low paid employees is raised, the usual reply is given that there is lack of finance. In a certain circle office, telephone operators represented that they wanted a piece of washing soap, not a costly thing, but just an ordinary washing soap to wash their hands at races or when they go home. The Director of Posts and Telegraphs said, well a piece of soap costs three annas, but when it comes to a question of supplying to all offices in India, it comes to a huge amount; therefore nothing can be done. If this post card is not sold at less than the cost price, at the expense of near about 2,18,000 posts and Telegraphs employees, at whose cost is it being sold? I beg to submit that the Ministry has to make up its mind one way or the other. Let them appoint an expert committee to go into the rates policy and financial structure of the whole Department. I submit that it is high time that we give up this mixed policy. If it is run on a commercial basis, the rates structure will have to be rationalised. Let us try to edu-

cate the people that we have to pay for services we receive. Let us go to the people and tell them, if you want the service, you have to pay. If it is a public utility service, let the public be served not at the cost of the poor employees but the State should subsidise as and when needs occur, as the State does in some other spheres. The highly paid officials do not suffer. They get medical service for their family members also. It is only the class IV employees who are not entitled to get medical facilities for their family members. All other officers get their travelling allowances, daily allowance or some sort of allowance whenever they go on the line. It is only the poorly paid line man who goes out for working on the line that is not getting any allowance. I am not talking of the line man in the headquarters. It is only the poor line man getting Rs. 60 or 70 that does not get any allowance, but all other officers going out to the same place for some work get allowance. If we talk of it as a public utility service, let the hon. Minister, about whose *bona fides* we have no doubt and who did good work as Labour Minister in the previous regime, say what he is going to do and how he is going to do it. But he must not fail to look to the welfare of the employees.

Taking another important point in the Five Year Plan on the subject, one of the most crying needs of the Department is accommodation. We have been crying hoarse over it. The Department has understood well and truly that there is less than minimum accommodation. I can tell the House that I have seen and the high officials of the Department have also seen post office premises in which it is humanly impossible to work. In a small room, there are all sorts of parcels and various things and the employees have also to work in it. It sounds funny to hear, but it is true, that in certain post offices, there are not as many chairs as there are clerks. What, then, is going to happen as regards this accommodation? In the Five Year Plan it is said;

"We find that shortage of accommodation in the Posts and Telegraphs offices and the consequent congestion has become so serious that unless concerted measures are adopted quickly, the efficiency of the department will go down rapidly."

Thanks to the hard working, poorly paid, employees, the efficiency has not gone down. If it has not gone down, it is an agreeable surprise. In the

[Shri Sarmah]

year of grace 1953, these employees in certain parts of the country are working in sub-human conditions. What are they going to do as regards accommodation? Let us take one instance of a State like Assam. There, the accommodation is perhaps worse than in most other States because, Assam was tagged on to Bengal till lately when the Assam Circle was formed. Before that she was under the P.M.G. of Bengal. Naturally, without casting any reflection on anybody, the places near about, under their eye, got better attention and Assam, being far away, did not get the necessary attention and in consequence the conditions there were rather deplorable. There is absolute shortage of accommodation both in P. & T. office premises and staff accommodation. Year after year, a certain sum of money is granted for the purpose of construction, but for want of execution, this amount lapses. Whose fault is it? The Postal Department say that we pass on these things to the Central P.W.D. For Assam, the Central P.W.D. exists in a place called Gangtok, somewhere near Darjeeling, and they are responsible for construction of Posts and Telegraphs offices in Assam. We do not know where Gangtok is; we read it in geography. (An hon. Member: It is in Sikkim). I was told by somebody that the North Eastern Frontier Agency Superintending Engineer has been entrusted with the work of looking after the construction. The North Eastern Frontier Agency is on India's border, between Assam and Tibet and the Superintending Engineer....

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member has only two minutes more.

Shri Sarmah: Only two minutes? For so many days I have been waiting for this chance. Please give me ten minutes more. I will not waste the time.

Mr. Chairman: Only two minutes more; he has already taken 13 minutes.

Shri Sarmah: I am sorry. This Superintending Engineer stays in Shillong. But, that bottleneck cannot be overcome. If they want to complete the Five Year Plan, let them have their own department, if they cannot get it done through the Central P.W.D. or if the State P.W.D. cannot do it. The other day, I wrote to the State Minister of Public Works. He said that he had not the blue-prints. He can consider about getting temporary

officers and having the premises constructed if he has the blue-prints, etc., of what has to be done in the next three years. If he is not supplied with the detailed plan of construction for next three years, on what basis could he entertain temporary officers?

This is a pressing matter. Nothing will be done under the Five Year Plan, in most parts of the country if the Department is not alert immediately. Because they spent only 12 crores the bulk of the Five Year Plan money of 50 crores remains.

Coming to labour welfare organisations, last year also, we heard the same thing as this year. Do the labour welfare organisations remain to assist the higher officers in their office, or do they really exist for the welfare of the employees? I want a straight answer from the hon. Minister. Last Year, if I remember aright, he was pleased to say that there would be a central pool of labour welfare officers so that they will not be directly under the Director General of Posts & Telegraphs. Now, when the subordinate employees want certain amenities, they have to represent to the labour welfare officer who is directly under the Director General of Posts & Telegraphs. That poor fellow is between the devil and the deep sea. What can he do? He cannot look at the face of the workers; he cannot look at the face of the Director General. Something should be done about this labour welfare organisation and that, please without delay.

Then comes the expert committee decision. Here, in the report of activities of the Ministry 1952-53, circulated to us, we find that most of the recommendations have been accepted. I hope my information is not correct and I will be glad if my information is not correct, that except overtime and out station allowances, most of the other important suggestions either have not been accepted or accepted with such modification as negative. So to clarify the matter and remove the misgivings the hon. Minister should lay a statement on the Table of the House in this connection.

Then comes, stores. My friend Mr. Venkataraman dealt with this matter. I will not dilate on it. There are huge amount of rotten and worthless stores and they should be sold by auction and fresh stores in sufficient quantity should be bought so

that the Five Year Plan developmental activities may not be held up for years to come.

Then, I would urge for increasing the production capacity of the telephone works and telegraph workshops. If this is not done, then the Ministry, in spite of all its best wishes, will not be able to overtake the arrears which are there for so many years.

Another point which I would submit is about Railway Mail vans. There are punishment vans. For the Railway mail service workers, these vans are really a punishment. They do not deserve it. Those prison vans are perhaps a trifle better than the mail vans that are running. I can say this about at least certain parts of the country. I cannot say the same thing about Delhi to Calcutta, Bombay and Madras.

As regards medical facilities, I would submit that the class IV employees may also be given the opportunity to have their family members treated by doctors. Other employees of the Department have this facility. It is only the poor employees who have been deprived of it. Compensation may be given to employees where there are no Government or quasi Government hospitals or medical men.

I have been submitting to the Department and I submit it again: certain compensatory allowances are given to certain categories of employees in P. & T. Department in certain places. I submit that if the basis of compensatory allowance is the special consideration of special hardship in the matter of duty of conditions of living, then the compensatory allowances should be given to the employees in Assam. It was given for several years but was abolished in 1948. Has the index of the cost of living fallen since 1948? No, it has not fallen. If anything, it has risen since 1948, particularly in that part of the country. If the cost of living is taken into consideration, I beg to submit that the cost of living in Assam is the highest in India. In small towns which have a population of 12,000 or 15,000 or 16,000 the cost of living is higher than what it is in Delhi and in Calcutta. If the hon. Minister is not prepared to accept my statement, I will request him to get it examined.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Enquire from the Assam Government.

Shri Sarmah: It is not due to the fault of the people of Assam. It is on account of partition of India and trans-

port difficulties. The Assam Government also give you facts, but why not go once? It is right that Ministers should travel and find out something at least for themselves. Our bane is that our Ministers look at matters, sometimes, not always—and the present company may even be excepted—through the eyes of I.C.S. officers. I.C.S. officers have not been able to change, mostly. There are no doubt good officers, but I am talking of some not all. I do not make a sweeping remark, but some of them have not been able to change the spots of their skin, also their hearts.

Pandit B. Shukla (Durg-Bastar): This is the first time that I am speaking in this august House. I crave the indulgence of all the hon. Members of this House.

This is a subject on which I thought very few would like to speak, because, in a way, this is a subject which is non-controversial, but I found it was quite difficult to catch your eye.

The Leader of the Opposition raised a very good point, viz. whether the Department is a public utility one or of a commercial nature. In spite of the fact that both the aspects have to be considered, I think this Department is more of a public utility nature, although we find sometimes that people who do very useful work, themselves do not realise what service they are doing to the community. This is a Department which I find—I have a little knowledge of it, because recently I had been associated with some of its activities; after I was elected, it was the first public function that I attended. There was a conference of the Provincial Postal Workers' Union, and I had the honour to inaugurate it. Important but ignored, I found that it is one of the best organized Departments. They have got perhaps the best workers' union, and there is very little complaint, but all the same, it is a Department which we will always wish to improve. During the course of the debate in that conference, there were certain matters raised, and I found that in spite of the fact that this is the most well organized Department, there are certain things which we have to look into. One of the complaints that was there, and which I am glad was rectified subsequently, was about the selection of some workers. There were quite a number of well-experienced and senior workers in the Department, but because of some official routine or some such

[Pandit B. Shukla]

thing, some new-comers were taken in. I had a talk with the officials concerned there, as well as the workers. The workers had several unions at that time; afterwards, it was merged or something, but almost everybody there was of the opinion that that was a course which was not proper—excepting some people who benefited by it. Subsequently that was rectified, but that shows that there is still scope for improvement, in this, as in every other sphere of life. After all, the problems are different in different regions.

5 P.M.

The hon. Member who spoke earlier referred to Assam, in the North-east frontier. I come from a constituency which is almost in the centre of the country. All the same, it does not follow that because it is not on the frontiers, our problems are not so serious as in the case of Assam. Perhaps I think there is no other region in the whole country where the need for more post offices is greater felt than in the part of the country from which I come. It is an area where sometimes you may be surprised to find no post office within 50 miles. The hon. Member from Assam who preceded me, told us that people have to walk some ten miles or so, before they could see a post office. But here he will not find any post office for miles and miles together. Of course, I cannot blame the Government for that. They are doing their best, but the area being an aboriginal one, there are some slight difficulties. But they are doing and planning so much for the uplift of these aboriginals, and this Department of Communications having an educative value also, they should do something in this direction as well. In a village where very few means of communications are available, you can realise what joy, what tidings and what things a single letter gives that far placed village, when a postman goes there with a single letter. Good Communication is more important in this age of community projects because unless people can communicate between themselves better, no better community free from the disrupting influence of communalism can be developed on sound footings.

As social workers, we have been finding some difficulty in communicating with them. Unless we could communicate our ideas to them, there will be no education at all for them. Apart from the fact that this is a public utility Department, this, being

a Department of Communications there is the aspect of education also to be considered. If we could have good post offices everywhere, we could send them our things in which they may be interested, so that they may read those things and become educated. I had some experience of social education in our parts. The difficulty that we faced there was that we might educate these people at any particular time, but after some years they forget whatever they have learnt. That was because they had nothing to read afterwards. And so unable to continue their education, they forget what they have learnt in a period of about ten years or so. But if there were the means to send them perpetually things in which they will be interested or will take interest, then their education could continue. If we could give them good postal communication and other means of communication, they will take greater interest in other aspects of life also.

This is a Department about which there is nothing controversial, but it is not the least important on that score, for unlike the so many other Departments, this is all-pervading, and concerns almost indirectly every other aspect of life. That is why I rose today to support the Demands and oppose the cut motions.

श्री पी० जी० सेन (पूर्विया मध्य) :

मैं एक पिछड़े हुए इलाके से आ रहा हूँ और खास करके वह इलाका जिसमें एक तरफ गंगा नदी बहती है और दूसरी तरफ कोसी। और उस इलाके को कोसी इलाका कहने में कोई हर्ज नहीं है। इन दोनों नदियों की वजह से यहां के गांवों की हालत काफी बिगड़ी हुई है और काफी दिक्कत लोगों को उठानी पड़ती है।

पहले मैं आनरेबल मिनिस्टर साहब को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि वह अभी हवाई जहाज के यातायात का राष्ट्रीयकरण करने जा रहे हैं, मगर साथ ही मैं उनसे यह भी कहूंगा कि हम लोगों के यहां जो एयरोड्रोम है, उन की तरक्की करनी चाहिये ताकि कम से कम हवाई जहाज से कुछ न कुछ कनेक्शन उस पिछड़े इलाके को होजाय, क्योंकि अभी तक गंगा नदी के ऊपर पुल

बांवा नहीं जा सका है, अभी तो मुकामा पुल ही बनने में देर है, मनीहारीघाट को कौन पूछता है पर इसका बनना बहुत जरूरी और उपयोगी सिद्ध होगा, क्योंकि आसाम से लिंक कनेक्शन इसी रास्ते से होकर सहज हो सकता है।

इसके अलावा माननीय मंत्री ने जो करीब बीस हजार के पोस्ट आफिसेज खोले हैं और जिनकी उपयोगिता के बारे में हाउस के हर एक मेम्बर ने जोर दिया है सो मैं भी समझता हूँ कि यह बहुत ठीक काम हुआ है और मैं उनको इस काम को करने के लिए हार्दिक बधाई देना चाहता हूँ। आपकी पिंक रिपोर्ट में भी इसके बारे में जिक्र आया है और उसमें आप ने बतलाया है कि इनका खोलना बहुत जरूरी था। जहाँ तक दो हजार की आबादी का सवाल है, उस के बारे में भी आप को इस दृष्टिकोण से देखना है कि हिन्दुस्तान के गाँव छोटे छोटे हैं और बहुत बिखरे हुए भी इसलिये इस बारे में जो ध्यान दिया जा रहा है कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा एरिया और क्षेत्र एक पोस्ट आफिस में आ जाये, ४, ५, ६ गाँवों को मिलाकर भी उनके लिये एक पोस्ट आफिस खोलें, इसके लिये भी मैं आपको बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि आपने इस ओर ध्यान दिया है।

अब सवाल पोस्ट आफिसेज में जो मुलाजमीन काम करते हैं उनको ऐकोमोडेशन प्रोवाइड करने के लिये है पूर्णिया में इस हेतु आपने अपने बजट में कर्मचारियों के क्वार्टर्स बनाने के लिये कुछ रकम रखी है इसके लिये भी मैं आपको बधाई देता हूँ। १२ एच टाइप क्वार्टर्स आप पूर्णिया में बनाने जा रहे हैं, मगर इस काम की रफ्तार और प्रगति इतनी धीमी व सुस्त है कि यह नहीं कहा जा सकता कि वह काम कब तक जाकर पूरा हो सकेगा।

मैं, अभी कुछ देर पहले यहाँ उस कोसी इलाके की बाबत कह रहा था, यह पूर्णिया का इलाका भागलपुर डिवीजन के अन्दर पड़ता है, लेकिन भागलपुर डिवीजन और पूर्णिया में जो एक तफरका या प्रायक्य है उसकी ओर मैं आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ ताकि वह प्रायक्य दूर हो सके। मैं आपको बताऊँ कि पूर्णिया भागलपुर में पड़ने की वजह से पूर्णिया को एक ट्रेनिंग ग्राउन्ड बना कर रखा हुआ है और जितने एक्सपर्ट्स या अनुभवी आफिसर्स पूर्णिया में होते हैं उनको भागलपुर भेज दिया जाता है, यह अक्सर देखा जाता है कि पूर्णिया में जहाँ कोई थोड़े भी इक्सपिरियन्स ड्युए, तो उनको वहाँ से हटा लिया जाता है और नतीजा यह होता है कि पूर्णिया में बराबर योग्य हैड्स की शार्टेज बनी रहती है और यही कारण है कि वहाँ काम में गड़बड़ी और एफीशियेंसी कम हो रही है। एफीशियेंट लोग वहाँ न रहने की वजह से नीचे के तबके के लोग काम करना सीख भी नहीं सकते हैं और कोई पूछने और बताने वाला नहीं होता कि क्या है और क्या नहीं है और इसके फलस्वरूप पोस्टल सर्विस के ऊपर और स्टाफ के बारे में बड़ी भारी शिकायत और प्रेशर बढ़ जाता है। और यह भी एक कारण है जिस से उन की एफिशिएन्सी कम होती है और उनको पनिशमेंट मिलता है क्योंकि वह काम नहीं जानते हैं और गल्ती हो जाया करती है। फिर उन को कोई बताने वाला भी नहीं होता है।

अब वहाँ के आफिस ऐकोमोडेशन का सवाल लीजिये। इस बारे में मैं यह कहना चाहता था कि अररिया, फारबिसगंज, किशनगंज और कटिहार वगैरह में तो, ऐकोमोडेशन की कमी है ही, लेकिन पूर्णिया जो कि हैड आफिस है वहाँ की हालत यह है कि १४०४ स्क्वायर फीट का कपरा है जिस में लगभग ५५ आदमी काम करते हैं, एक

[श्री पी० जी० सेन]

तो हेड आफिस का डाक घर, फिर उस में टेबल, कुर्सी वगैरह, पिअन्स रहते हैं, डाक इत्यादि आती हैं। आप समझ सकते हैं कि १४०४ स्क्वायर फीट के दायरे में ५५ आदमी काम करते हैं तो किस तरीके से करते होंगे। इस लिये रोज वहां यह देखा जाता है कि आज यह चोरी हो गई आज यह कमी हो गई आज यह पैसा कम हो गया। आज यैला काटा तो उस में तीन सील नहीं हैं, लेकिन इस की ओर कोई देखने वाला नहीं है। जब से मैं पोस्ट एंड टेलिग्राफ वर्कर्स यूनियन का सभापति चुना गया तब से मेरे पास इस तरह की शिकायतें आती रहती हैं कि इस प्रकार से किस तरह काम करें। मुझ को उन से मिलने जुलने का मौका भी मिलता रहता है और उनके हृदय की बात जानने की भी कुछ सुविधा मिलती रहती है। वह लोग खुद बताते हैं कि जब कभी इस तरह से रुपये गायब होते हैं तो लोग किसी से कहते भी नहीं हैं, और आपस में ही मिल जुल कर रुपया पूरा कर देते हैं, ५५ आदमियों के दरम्यान में किसी का कुछ पता नहीं लगता है कि किस ने लिया है। इसलिये वह अपनी भलाई इसी में समझते हैं कि अगर तीन सौ रुपये गायब हुए तो दो तीन आदमियों ने मिल कर जिनकी जिम्मेदारी रही उसे दे दिया, यह सोच कर कि कौन कानून के शंखट में पड़े। सब को पुलिस वाले पकड़ कर ले जायेंगे और सब को हेरासमेंट (harassment) होगा। नौकरी छोड़ कर उन को जेल जाना पड़ेगा। इसलिये वह खुद ही रफा कर लेते हैं।

मुझे यह बात कहनी थी कि पूर्णिया पोस्ट आफिसेस में जगह और बढ़ानी चाहिये, और यह अब तक नहीं हुआ है। हां, अभी कुछ बिन से बात चीत चल रही थी कि पूर्णिया में आयरन केज बनाया जायगा क्योंकि

वहां पर ट्रेजरी है। लेकिन अभी तक वहां आयरन केज बनाने के बारे में कोई खास बात नहीं हुई है। यह भी नहीं मालूम हो सका है कि वह बनाया भी जायगा या नहीं। हालांकि इस सिलसिले में बात बहुत दिनों से चल रही थी।

अगर आप कोसी ऐरिया और पूर्णिया के बारे में कुछ करना चाहते हैं तो मेरा यह सुझाव है कि पूर्णिया को एक अलग डिवीजन बनाना चाहिये जिसका पूर्णिया हैड क्वार्टर हो। हमारे माननीय मेम्बर मिश्र जी ने भी एक कट मोशन दिया है कि वहां उनके इलाके में टेलिग्राफ आफिस होना चाहिये। आप की जो रिपोर्ट है उस में दिया हुआ है कि आप एकस्ट्रा डिपार्टमेंटल टेलिग्राफ आफिस खोलने की बात सोच रहे हैं यह भी बहुत सराहनीय बात है, और इस के हो जाने से कुछ अंश में आप का काम पूरा होगा। हमारे मिश्र जी भी चाहते हैं कि बलवा बाजार होते हुए फारविशगंज से बीरपुर तक टेलिग्राफ लाइन होनी चाहिये।

दूसरी बात जो मा० मिश्र जी भी कहना चाहते थे, इसलिये मैं खास कर माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि फारविशगंज को भी एकस्वेन्ज आफिस कर देना चाहिये। हो सकता है बजट में रुपया न होने की वजह से बहुत से एकस्वेन्ज न खुल सकेंगे। मैं आप से यह कहना चाहूंगा कि इस मद में बजट के रुपया कट जाने पर भी आप फारविशगंज को छांट नहीं देंगे।

एक बात मुझे टेलीफोन एकस्वेन्ज के बारे में भी कहनी है। पूर्णिया में टेलिफोन एकस्वेन्ज नहीं है सिर्फ पब्लिक कौल आफिस है। और एक ही आदमी को टेलिग्राम और टेलीफोन दोनों ब्रान्चों में काम करना पड़ता है। नतीजा यह होता है कि जब कभी

कोई टेलिफोन आता है तो कोई खबर देने वाला भी नहीं होता है। मेरा यह कहना है कि पब्लिक काल आफिस में कम से कम एक आपरेटर जरूर होना चाहिये। और एक साईकलिस्ट भी होना चाहिये जिस में कि अगर कोई टेलिफोन आये तो वह खबर तो दे। अक्सर लोग कहते हैं कि कमी कोई टेलिफोन करने आता है तो पता नहीं चलता है कि "कौल" कब आये क्योंकि कटिहार आफिस एक्सचेंज के लिये यहां घंटों बैठ कर इन्तजार करना पड़ता है। इस लिये पूर्णिया से डाईरेक्ट लाइन होनी चाहिये और पूर्णिया में एक्सचेंज बनना बहुत जरूरी है।

अब थोड़े से शब्द में एक्स्ट्रा डिपार्टमेंटल पोस्ट मास्टर्स के बारे में कहना चाहता हूं। और वह यह है कि आप पिअन्स को तो मौका देते हैं कि वह आप के डिपार्टमेंट में किसी जगह काम कर सकता है। वह इम्तहान पास कर ले तो आप उस को ले लेते हैं, लेकिन आप एक्स्ट्रा डिपार्टमेंटल पोस्ट मास्टर्स को मौका नहीं देते हैं। वह पढ़े लिखे आदमी होते हैं, उन को भी इम्तहान बर्गरेह में बैठने का मौका देना चाहिये। मैं समझता हूं कि जो आप के यहां के रेगुलर केडर के पिअन्स हैं वह भी अच्छी अच्छी जगह पहुंच गये हैं, ऐसी हालत में इन एक्स्ट्रा डिपार्टमेंटल पोस्ट मास्टर्स को डिबार कर देना और उन जगहों पर न लेना उन लोगों के साथ अन्याय होगा। इस लिये उन लोगों की खास कर जो कि जूनियर केम्पिज पास हैं उन को तो जरूर ही लेना चाहिये।

हमारे इस्लामपुर में एक बड़ा पोस्ट आफिस है और उस में एक ही पोस्ट मास्टर था, हैन्डस की कमी की वजह से वह अकेले सब काम नहीं कर सकता था, दो आदमी पिअन्स ग्रेड से विये गये वे भी काम नहीं जानते थे,

और काम जमा हो गया आखिर में उस पोस्ट मास्टर के ऊपर लांचन लगा कर पूर्णिया भेज दिया गया। पहले आपने उन के कहने के मुताबिक दूसरा आदमी नहीं दिया, लेकिन बाद में आदमी दिया गया। यह कितना अन्याय है।

एक पी० एन्ड टी० ट्रेनिंग सेन्टर आप हजारीबाग में खोलना चाहते हैं। मैं कहूंगा कि बंगाल, बिहार, और आसाम के लिये आप ट्रेनिंग सेन्टर खोल रहे हैं तो भागलपुर में क्यों नहीं खोलते? यह गंगा के किनारे होगा और आसाम वालों के लिये भी सुभीता होगा। कलकत्ते वालों के लिये तथा नौर्य बंगाल के लिये भी ज्यादा सुभीता रहेगा। इस लिये मैं आप से यह प्रार्थना करूंगा कि वह भागलपुर में खोला जाय तो सब से बढ़िया होगा।

इतना ही कह कर मैं कुछ ज्यादा समय लेने की वजह से माफी मांगता हूं।

श्री राम जी बर्मा : कम्यूनिकेशन विभाग यदि सुचारु रूप से काम करता हो तो देश की तरक्की में, उस की उन्नति में कोई सन्देह नहीं हो सकता।

श्री राज बहादुर : संवाह परिवहन विभाग।

श्री राम जी बर्मा : स्वराज्य होश के बाद अगर देश की उन्नति शीघ्र से शीघ्र करनी हो तो इस के लिये आवश्यक है कि कम्यूनिकेशन विभाग पर खास तौर से ध्यान दिया जाय। मैं यह देख रहा हूं कि कम्यूनिकेशन विभाग में काम करने वाले कर्मचारी हर प्रकार से सहयोग करने के लिये तैयार हैं, वह काम कर रहे हैं। यह ऐसा डिपार्टमेंट है जिस में ऐसे भी लोग हैं जिन

[श्री राम जी वर्मा]

लोगों को छुट्टी बिल्कुल नहीं होती साल भर में कोई छुट्टी नहीं मिलती। उन को इन्कीमेंट, उन को कान्फर्मेशन और उन को रहने की सुविधायें नहीं मिलतीं। जब कुछ लोगों को मालूम हुआ कि मैं भी इस सब्जेक्ट पर यहां बोलने वाला हूं तो मुझे कुछ ऐसे लोग मिले जिन्होंने यह बतलाया कि इस दिल्ली शहर में जहां इस डिपार्टमेंट में पुरुष और स्त्रियां दोनों काम करते हैं, उन के लिये अलग से लैट्रिन की गुंजाइश नहीं है। यह उन के रहन सहन का तरीका है तो वह कैसे ठीक ठीक काम कर सकते हैं। मैं तो समझता हूं कि इस डिपार्टमेंट में अगर कहीं सुस्ती है तो वह सरकार की तरफ से। इस लिये मैं बहुत गम्भीरता पूर्वक मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि वह इस ओर अधिक ध्यान दें। आप जानते हैं और सभी को इस बात का अनुभव है कि देहातों में लोग किस तरह से घूलफांक कर इस डिपार्टमेंट में काम करते हैं। अगर गाप आर० एम० एस० में देखिए तो एक छोटे से डब्बे में जहां जगह जगह धँले और बंडल पड़े रहते हैं वहां यह लोग कैसे काम करते हैं। फिर प्रायः आर० एम० एस० के डब्बे सब से पीछे रहते हैं, इसलिये वह सब से ज्यादा हिलते भी हैं। और उन लोगों को वहां पढ़ने लिखने की गुंजाइश नहीं रहती है। इस तरह से यह लोग सर्बिस करते हैं।

देहात से लेकर शहर तक के पुरुष और स्त्री जो कि इस डिपार्टमेंट में काम करते हैं और बिना छुट्टी लिए इस डिपार्टमेंट में काम करते जा रहे हैं आप की तरफ से उनको क्या सहयोग मिलता है। सरकार की तरफ से उन को क्या प्रोत्साहन दिया जाता है। अगर वह अपनी शिकायतों को आप के सामने रखने के लिए कोई यूनियन

बनाते हैं तो आप छोटी छोटी यूनियनों को तरजीह देकर शक्तिशाली यूनियन को इग्नोर कर देते हैं। उनकी बातों को आप नहीं सुनते। मुझे यह सुनकर बहुत हैरत हुई कि ऐंबियेशन डिपार्टमेंट में पहले तीन यूनियन काम करती थीं तो आपने कहा कि सब को तोड़ कर एक यूनियन बनाओ। उन्होंने उन सब को तोड़ कर एक यूनियन बनायी जिस का नाम उन्होंने सिविल ऐंबियेशन डिपार्टमेंट ऐम्प्लॉईज यूनियन रखा। लेकिन आप की तरफ से उस को अब तक मान्यता नहीं मिली है और किसी पुरानी यूनियन को जो कि अब अगिजस्ट तक नहीं करती है आप मान्यता दिये जा रहे हैं। यह आप की हुकूमत की गति है और दूसरी तरफ उन का काम है। तो कैसे काम चल सकता है। अगर आप मुल्क की तरक्की शीघ्र से शीघ्र करना चाहते हैं तो कर्मचारियों की ओर इस तरह से उपेक्षा करके नहीं कर सकते हैं। अगर आप को मुल्क की तरक्की करनी है तो आपको सहयोग करना चाहिए। कहा जाता है कि इस डिपार्टमेंट के लोगों में सुस्ती बढ़ रही है। अगर इन में कोई दोष या खराबी हो रही है तो उसका यही कारण है कि आपने अपनी तरफ से उपेक्षा कर रखी है। इसलिए मैं आप से बहुत नम्रतापूर्वक निवेदन करता हूं कि इस तरफ ध्यान दीजिये।

मैं ने सुना है कि सरकार ऐंबियेशन डिपार्टमेंट का राष्ट्रीकरण करना चाहती है। शीघ्र से शीघ्र करे। जितने और इस तरह के विभागों और धन्धों का सरकार राष्ट्रीकरण कर ले उतना ही अच्छा होगा।

मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूं। पोस्टल डिपार्टमेंट के लिए शायद कुछ सेंट्स बढ़ाये जाने वाले हैं। हमारे देश में इस के

काम बढ़ रहे हैं और लोगों में जहां जहां चेतना बढ़ रही है वहां वहां आदमी उतना ही अधिक काम लादे जा रहे हैं। तो आप सेण्टर्स जरूर बढ़ाइये। लेकिन मैं आपसे यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि जिस तरह से रेलवे के भन्दर जोनिंग रखा गया है उसी तरह से साइडिफिक लाइन पर देख भाल कर आप इन सेंटर्स को बढ़ावें जिससे ऐफीशेंसी बढ़ सके लेकिन आप यह देख लीजिये कि किसी प्राविंस या स्टेट के नाम पर सेंटर न बढ़ाये जायें क्योंकि यह खतरनाक होगा। इस चीज को आप न बढ़ने दें यह आपसे मेरा निवेदन है।

हिन्दी के सम्बन्ध में मैं ने गत वर्ष भी आपसे निवेदन किया था। अंग्रेजी हुकूमत एक रात में यहां से बिदा हो सकती है लेकिन क्या आपके डिपार्टमेंट से इस अंग्रेजी की मुहर को जाने में भी १५ वर्ष लग जायेंगे। क्या यह आपकी गति है, रफ्तार है। अगर आप चाहें तो मुहरों को तो आप एक क्षण में चेंज कर सकते हैं।

श्री भागवत झा (पूर्विया व सन्ध्याल परगना) : अगर हिन्दी में पता लिखा हो तो वह अंग्रेजी में लिखवा कर तब चिट्ठी डिलीवर करते हैं।

श्री राम जी वर्मा : इसमें आप बहुत बेरी कर रहे हैं। मेरा निवेदन है कि इन अंग्रेजी सीलों को आप रद्दी की टोकरी में रखिये और हो सके तो इनकी कोई और चीज बनवा लीजिये। लेकिन आप अंग्रेजी की मुहरें बदल कर अब हिन्दी में कर लीजिये यह बहुत आवश्यक है। यह कहना ठीक नहीं है कि यह भी धीरे धीरे १५ वर्ष में बदल जायगी। इनके लिये तो देर करने की ज्यादा जरूरत नहीं है। इन को तो आप फौरन बदल सकते हैं।

हिन्दी तारों के सम्बन्ध में मुझे यह कहना है कि आज भी देहातों में लोग अंग्रेजी तार पढ़ाने के लिए दूसरी जगह ले जाते हैं। यह चीज भारत के हर कोने में होती है। अगर कुछ समय हिन्दी के तार को भी पढ़ाने के लिए ले जाना पड़े तो कोई बात नहीं लेकिन आपको इसे प्रोत्साहन देना चाहिए। आपने सिर्फ बड़े बड़े शहरों में हिन्दी के तार का प्रबन्ध किया है। यू० पी० और बिहार के सूबों में तो हिन्दी बोली जाती है। इसलिए अगर आप इन सूबों में एक सिरे से हिन्दी में तार का प्रबन्ध कर दें तो इसको बहुत प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा और आपको यह कहने का मौका नहीं मिलेगा कि हमारी ग्रामवनी कम हो रही है। लेकिन अगर आप कलकत्ता और बम्बई में हिन्दी के तार का प्रबन्ध करेंगे तो वहां कौन हिन्दी में तार देने जायगा। तो इन सूबों में आप हिन्दी तार घरों को बढ़ाइये यह मेरी आपसे दरखास्त है।

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान भ. नै खिले की तरफ भी दिलाना चाहता हूं। गोरखपुर जहां पर रेलवे हैडक्वार्टर है वहां पर वह एक बहुत अच्छा एरोड्रोम भी है। मैं आपसे निवेदन करता हूं कि उसे भी आप हवाई मार्ग पर एक स्टेशन बना लें।

श्री राज बहादुर : वहां हवाई मार्ग से चलने वाले नहीं हैं।

श्री राम जी वर्मा : आप डाकखाने के अन्दर सब चीजों के रेट बढ़ा रहे हैं, जैसे रजिस्ट्री और बीमा वगैरह। मेरी एक दरखास्त यह है कि आप कार्ड और लिफाफे के सम्बन्ध में फिर गौर करें और कार्ड को दो पैसे और लिफाफे को एक आना का कर दें और रजिस्ट्री में भी कुछ कम कर दें।

श्री राज पहाड़ुर: पहले आपस में सलाह कर लीजिये ।

श्री राम जी बसौ: मेरी दरखास्त है कि ऐसा करने से सरकार की आमदनी निश्चित रूप से कम नहीं होगी और इससे लोगों को एक मॅटल सॅटिसफैक्शन होगा जो कि मुल्क का एक बहुत बड़ा लाभ होगा । इसलिए मैं मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करूंगा कि वह इस पर फिर से गौर करें कि वह कांड और लिफाफे का दाम कम कर दें और रजिस्ट्री की फीस कम कर दें ।

अब मैं आप का और अधिक समय न लेकर यही निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि आप अपना कदम बढ़ायें और इस डिपार्टमेंट में काम करने वालों की तरफ, जो कि धूल फांक कर भी काम करने को तैयार हैं, ध्यान दें । अगर आप ऐसा करेंगे तो यह लोग उत्साह से काम करने पर जुट जायेंगे और डिपार्टमेंट में ऐसी ऐफीशेंसी आ जायगी कि वह दुनिया के किसी भी देश के सामने आदर्श कायम कर सकेगा ।

श्री غلام قادر (جموں و کشمیر) :
جذاب چھر مہن صاحب - میں آپ کا شکر گزار ہوں کہ آج آپ نے مجھے اس ہاؤس میں پہلی دفعہ بولنے کا موقع دیا

یہاں پر ایک بڑے فاضل ممبر نے اپنی تقریر میں فرمایا کہ وہ ایک پچھڑے ہوئے علاقے سے آیا ہے - لیکن میں ایک ایسے شاندار علاقے سے آیا ہوں جو اس وقت تمام ملکہ میں ہر خاص و عام کی زبان پر ہے -

جذاب والا - چھ سال کے دور آزادی کے عرصہ کے اندر ملستری متعلقہ نے جس تیز رفتار کے ساتھ ملک کے اندر ریل و رسائل کے کام کو تیزی سے بڑھا دیا ہے اس کے لئے وہ قابل مبارکباد اور قابل تعریف ہے باوجود اس کے کہ اس وقت ملک میں بہت بڑے بڑے اہم کام جیسے ڈیمینس - آرریگیشن ریفرہ ہو رہے ہیں اور ایگریکلچر پر بہت زور دیا جا رہا ہے تاکہ ملک کے اندر فوڈ کی کمی دور ہو اس محکمے نے تھوڑی سی رقم میں جو کچھ کہا ہے وہ قابل تعریف ہے - جذاب والا - اس دوران میں باوجود اس کے کہ بہت سے بڑے بڑے کام زیر تعمیر ہیں - اس محکمہ نے بھی جس طرح کام چالو رکھا ہے وہ کسی سے پوشیدہ نہیں ہے -

جس وقت کہ اس ملک میں آزادی حاصل ہوئی وہ ایسا وقت تھا جب کہ صدیوں تک بھرونی حکمران نے اس ملک میں بھرونی بادشاہی قائم کر رکھی تھی اور اس ملک کو ویرانہ اور تیز رفتاری سے تباہ کر دیا تھا اسکو چند سال کے بہت کم عرصہ کے دوران میں پورا کرنا ناممکن اور مشکل بات ہے باوجود اس کے انہوں نے قابل تعریف کام کیا - جذاب عالی - میرا علاقہ جسکو وہیلی کشمیر کہتے ہیں اس بڑی وہیلی کے اندر چھوٹی چھوٹی اور وہیلیاں ہیں -

وادیوں میں - جن کے درمیان ۱۲ ہزار فٹ بلندی سے ۲۰ ہزار - ۲۴ ہزار - اور ۲۶ ہزار فٹ بلند برفانی پہاڑ کی چوٹیوں سے ڈھکی ہوئی ہیں - وہاں پر صدیوں سے بھرونی حکمرانوں نے آج تک ان محدود وادیوں کے اندر پوسٹ و ٹیلیگراف - تار گھر اور ڈاکخانہ کا خیال تک دماغ میں نہیں سوچا - لیکن چھ سال کے عرصہ کے اندر ہی منسٹر متعلقہ نے اس کام کو ہاتھ میں لے کر بہت حد تک سرانجام دیا ہے -

میں ایک دو باتیں ضروری جناب عالی - عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں - وہ یہ ہے کہ کشمیر کے علاقے میں جو کہ شمال کی طرف ایک سرحدی علاقے کے ساتھ ملتا جلتا ہے بہت ہی اہم مقامات ہیں - لداخ، تسکرکٹ کے اندر ایک حصہ تبت کے ساتھ ملتا ہے اور دوسرا حصہ سلکھانگ کے ساتھ ملتا ہے - سلکھانگ کے ساتھ جو لداخ، تسکرکٹ کی وادی کا حصہ ہے اس علاقے کو نرا ویجہ کہا جاتا ہے -

نوبرا وادی میں جہاں تک اس علاقے کی آبادی کا تعلق ہے - قریب چھ ہزار یا سات ہزار کی آبادی ہے آج تک وہاں پر شاید کوئی بھی چھوٹا ڈاکخانہ بھی نہیں کھولا گیا ہے - نہ ہی وہاں کوئی تار گھر ہے - وہ آبادی کم سے کم تین چار مہینے برف کے پہاڑوں سے ڈھکی رہتی ہے - راستہ قریب قریب محدود ہو جاتا

ہے جس کے لئے میں منسٹر متعلقہ سے درخواست کروں گا کہ وہ اس علاقے میں کم سے کم جتنا بھی جلد ہو سکے ایک ڈاک خانہ اور تار گھر کھولیں - اس کے علاوہ ایک اور علاقہ جنسکر وادی ہے - اس کے لئے بھی میں خاص طور پر درخواست کروں گا کہ ایک ڈاک خانہ اور ایک تار گھر کھولنے کی بہت ضرورت ہے - یہ علاقہ ہر لحاظ سے بہت اہم ہے - قفیس کے لحاظ سے بھی اور لوگوں کے لحاظ سے بھی جو بہت دور دراز علاقوں کے ریلے والے ہیں - وہاں پر کوئی سڑک بھی نہیں ہے - پلندہ دن شہینگر سے لداخ تک پہنچنے میں لگ جاتے ہیں - میں منسٹر متعلقہ سے درخواست کروں گا کہ اس علاقے کے لئے جتنا بھی جلد ہو سکے تار گھر اور ڈاک خانہ مہیا کریں - اس کے ساتھ ہی ایک بہت بڑا علاقہ تبت کے ساتھ ملتا ہے - اس علاقہ میں بھی ڈاک خانہ اور تار گھر کھولنے کی بہت ضرورت ہے - اگچہ اس وقت ملک کی موجودہ حالت اور ملک کی ضروریات کے مطابق مالی حالت کمزور ہونے کی صورت میں میں محکمہ متعلقہ پر بوجھ تو نہیں ڈالنا چاہتا لیکن اتنا ضرور عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ جتنا بھی کم توڑا بہت ہو سکے - جتنا بھی کم سے کم ہو سکے فوری طور پر اس علاقہ کا خیال رکھا جائے -

[شری غلام قادر]

اس کے بعد میں عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ اس بجٹ میں بہت سا روپیہ رکھا گیا ہے۔ میں نے جہاں تک اس کو تھوڑا بہت دیکھا مجھے کشمیر اسٹیٹ کے بارے میں کسی بھی جگہ کوئی بھی آئٹم میں نام نہیں دکھلائی دیا۔ حالانکہ نئے تار گھر بنانے کے بارے میں گورنمنٹ نے ۲۸ لاکھ روپیہ کی رقم رکھی ہوئی ہے لیکن کشمیر کے لئے کوئی بھی حصہ مخصوص نہیں کیا گیا ہے کشمیر میں بہت سے ایسے ڈاک خانے ہیں جو چھوٹی چھوٹی دوکانوں میں رکھے ہیں۔ چھوٹی چھوٹی جھونپڑیوں میں بیٹھے ہوئے ہیں اور ان دوکانوں کا کرایہ دینا پڑتا ہے۔ اس کے لئے میں درخواست کروں گا کہ اس سال جو ایسٹیمٹ بنایا ہوا ہے اس میں کم سے کم جہاں جہاں کشمیر ریاست کی اہم جگہیں ہیں اور جہاں بہت کام ڈاک خانوں کو ہے اور تار گھروں کو ہے وہاں پر اچھی اچھی بلڈنگیں بنائی جائیں۔

جناب عالی - اس کے بعد ۶۳ لاکھ روپیہ نئے لائسنس کے لئے منسٹر متعلقہ نے اپنے بجٹ میں رکھا ہوا ہے۔ اس ۶۳ لاکھ روپیہ میں بھی مجھے کو کشمیر کے لئے ایک پائی بھی نظر نہیں آیا۔ میں عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ کشمیر اسٹیٹ میں جھسا میں نے پہلے بھی کہا بہت بڑے

بڑے دریاؤں اور پہاڑوں کی وجہ سے بہت کچھ حصے الگ الگ ہیں اور ان حصوں کو جوڑنے کے لئے ایک ہی دسی میں ڈالنے کے لئے کم سے کم محکمہ متعلقہ کو خیال رکھنا چاہئے تھا کہ ان علاقوں کو بھی اپنی اس دسی میں جوڑ لیں۔ اس کے ساتھ ہی میں ایک بات اور یہ عرض کروں گا کہ وہاں بہت سے علاقے ایسے ہیں جو ڈیفنس کے لحاظ سے اہم ہیں۔ ان علاقوں کا محکمہ متعلقہ کو خود علم ہے۔ منسٹر متعلقہ اپنے محکموں سے ان کے نام دریافت کر سکتے ہیں۔ میں نام نہیں دینا چاہتا ہوں۔ وہاں تار گھر اور ڈاک خانے کھولنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ جناب عالی - ۶۳ لاکھ روپیہ کی رقم جو نئی لائسنس کے لئے ہے اس میں کشمیر کے لئے ایک پیسہ بھی نہیں رکھا ہوا ہے۔ میں منسٹر متعلقہ سے عرض کروں گا کہ ریاست کشمیر میں بہت سی ایسی جگہیں ہیں جن کو نئی لائسنس کی ضرورت ہے۔ اسی طرح ایک کروڑ ساٹھ لاکھ روپیہ کی رقم اور رکھی گئی ہے جو کہ ٹیلیگراف لائسنس کو نئی مادیوں طریقے پر بنانے کے لئے ہے۔ اس رقم میں بھی کشمیر کے لئے ایک پیسہ نہیں رکھا ہوا ہے حالانکہ بہت سا ایسا علاقہ ہے۔ بہت سی ایسی جگہیں ہیں جن کو مادیوں طریقے پر

ہلانا ہے - شرینگر سے گرگل تک ایسا علاقہ ہے جس میں کئی حصوں میں جازے کے موسم میں ٹیلی گراف لائن کٹ جاتی ہیں اور شاید جہاں تک مسٹر یان ہے ڈیفنس منسٹری سے اور ڈیفنس والوں کی طرف سے بھی اس کے لئے کہا گیا تھا کہ کم سے کم اس ٹیلی گراف لائن کو شری نگر سے لے کر گرگل تک انڈر گراؤنڈ لیا جائے -

جس سے کہ اس علاقے کے لوگوں کو اور خاص کر ڈیفنس کے انتظامات کو پوری طرح سے اور اچھی طرح سے مضبوط کیا جانا - اس تیسرے کروڑ روپے میں سے ایک پچیسہ بھی کشمیر کے لئے نہیں رکھا گیا ہے -

جہاں سنہ ۵۲ - ۵۱ میں منسٹری متعلقہ نے اس ریاست میں بھی بہت سے چھوٹے چھوٹے ڈاکھانے کھولے - لیکن ۵۲-۱۹۵۳ کو جہاں تک میں نے استیغنی کیا ہے کوئی بھی ایسا نہا پروگرام نہیں رکھا ہوا ہے - حالانکہ ابھی بہت سے ایسے علاقے ہیں ویلی کے باہر اور اندر بھی جہاں کہ ڈاک کھر کھولنا نہایت ضروری ہے دوسری بات یہ کہ گذشتہ سال بھی میں نے منسٹر متعلقہ سے درخواست کی تھی اور ایک سوال اس بارے میں پوچھا تھا اور آج پھر ان کی توجہ دلانا چاہتا ہوں کہ سونمرگ اور گرگل کے درمیان جو

میل ہٹس ریڈ کے دوران میں تباہ ہو گئی تھیں وہ ابھی تک نہیں بن پائی ہیں - وہ ایسی جگہیں ہیں جہاں کہ میل رنرس کو پچیسہ پچیسہ اور تھس تھس میل آن فٹ جانا پڑتا ہے - وہاں ابھی تک میل ہٹس ساری کی ساری تعمیر نہیں ہو سکی ہیں - منسٹر صاحب فرماتے ہیں کہ کچھ تعمیر ہو گئی ہیں اور کچھ ابھی تک نہیں ہو گئی ہیں - اس سال میں امید کرتا ہوں کہ وہ ساری کی ساری تیار ہو جائیں گے -

جناب والا میں صرف ایک مذمت میں ان میل رنرس کی بابت جو سونمرگ سے گرگل کے بیچ دڑتے ہیں ان کی حالت بدلتا چاہتا ہوں اور آپ کا دھیان ان کی طرف دلانا چاہتا ہوں کہ ان کے لئے کوئی بھی میڈیکل اریلیمینٹ نہیں ہے جب کہ اس علاقے میں خاص کر کے سردی کے موسم وہاں اتنی شدت کی سردی پڑتی ہے کہ سارا علاقہ جما رہتا ہے اور وہاں ان کے لئے کوئی میڈیکل اریلیمینٹ کا نہ ہونا واقعی بہت غور طلب ہے اور میں چاہوں گا کہ اس کی طرف استیغنی متعلقہ کے میڈیکل ڈپارٹمنٹ کی توجہ دلائی جائے تاکہ ان کے لئے تھیک طور پر دوائی دارو کا بندوبست کیا جائے - میں آپ کا اور ہاؤس کا زیادہ وقت نہیں لہنا چاہتا اور میں تمام

[شہری غلام قادر]

گنڈولس کی مخالفت کرتا ہوا اور
کرائس کو سپورٹ کرتا ہوا بیٹھ جاتا
ہوں۔

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Ghulam Qadar (Jammu and Kashmir): Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you for having provided me my first opportunity to speak in this House.

A learned Member here happened to remark that he had come from a backward area. I, however, come from a glorious region—a region that is the talk of everybody in the country at the present time.

Sir, the Ministry deserves our commendation for the speed with which they have developed communications in the country within the post-freedom period of six years. Considering the great projects relating to defence, irrigation and agriculture that are being carried out in the country at this time—the last one being aimed at removing the food shortage—it is commendable for this department to have achieved so much with the help of such small funds. Nobody is ignorant of the manner in which they have kept things going in spite of the fact that so many projects have been under construction.

Before the advent of freedom this country had for centuries been ruled by foreign rulers and had a neglected and deserted aspect. Although it is extremely difficult and well nigh impossible to make up all that deficiency within a few years, yet whatever has been achieved is praiseworthy.

My part of the country which is known as the Kashmir Valley contains within itself a number of smaller valleys interspersed with snow-clad mountain-tops rising up to a height of twelve to twenty-six thousand feet. For centuries the foreign rulers there had never thought of establishing post and telegraph offices there. The Ministry concerned has, however, achieved a lot during the small period of six years.

There are just one or two important matters to which I wish to draw attention. There are some very important places on the northern frontier of Kashmir. For instance, a part of the district of Laddakh touches Tibet

and another touches Sinkiang. The part of the valley in Laddakh District touching Sinkiang is known as Nobra Valley. The population of Nobra Valley is about six or seven thousand. There, possibly, does not exist even a small post office in that region. Nor is there any telegraph office. For at least three or four months mountains in that region are covered with snow. The road is almost closed. I would request the Minister concerned to establish at least one post and telegraph office in this region as early as possible. There is another valley known as Jinskar Valley which too is badly in need of a post and telegraph office. This is a strategic region from the point of view of defence and it also owes its importance to the fact that the people belong to distant, far-flung areas. It does not possess a road either. The journey from Srinagar to Laddakh takes fifteen days.

There is also a very large region touching Tibet where too a post and telegraph office has to be established. While I do not wish the department concerned to be overburdened with expenditure, in view of the country's present needs and the financial stringency, I would submit that whatever little can possibly be done for this region should be done at an early date.

Although a lot of money has been provided in this budget for various purposes I have failed to find the name of Kashmir figuring against any item. A sum of Rupees 48 lakhs has been set apart for the opening of new telegraph offices but no part of it has been set apart for Kashmir. Many post offices in Kashmir are housed in small shops. They are putting up in small cottages. Rent has to be paid for these shops. I would accordingly request that provision may be made in the present estimates for the construction of proper buildings in strategic regions in the Kashmir State where the post and telegraph offices have lot of business to transact.

The Minister concerned has provided for a sum of Rs. 64 lakhs in the budget for new lines. There too I have not found even a pie earmarked for Kashmir. As I have stated already, a number of regions in Kashmir are situated very much apart from one another on account of large rivers and mountains and the Department concerned should have had them in view and done something to link

them together and bring them into their chain of communications. Besides, some parts of it are strategic from the point of view of defence and the Department concerned knows about them. I do not wish to give here their names which the hon. Minister can find out from his Department. Those places need post and telegraph offices. Out of the sum of rupees 64 lakhs set apart for new lines not a penny is earmarked for Kashmir even though a number of places, in Kashmir stand in need of new lines. Similarly, another sum of rupees one crore and sixty lakhs has been set apart for the construction of telegraph lines on new, modern lines. Here too Kashmir has been ignored although a number of places and lines are in need of such remodelling. There is a region between Srinagar and Kargal where in several places the telegraph line gets snapped during the winter and, as far as I remember, a representation has been made by the Defence Ministry and the Defence Department too for this particular line being converted into an underground line, which would help to strengthen the defence arrangements.

Whereas in 1951-52 the Ministry concerned did open a number of small post offices in this State the year 1953-54 does not seem to carry any such new programme, although there still remain a number of places within and outside the valley, which need post offices.

I made a request to the Minister concerned last year and also tabled a question whereby I wished to draw his attention to the fact that the mail huts between Sonmarg and Kargal that had been destroyed during a raid had not yet been rebuilt. Among these places, the mail runners have to do twenty-five to thirty miles on foot. I am told by the hon. Minister that some of them have been rebuilt. I hope that all of them will be rebuilt.

Sir, I wish also to draw your attention to the plight of the mail-runners who run between Sonmarg and Kargal. There exist no medical arrangements for these people although the cold in this region in the winter season is so intense that the whole area is frozen. The absence of any medical arrangements deserves to be looked into urgently. I would like the attention of the medical department of the State concerned to be

drawn to the fact so that proper medical arrangements could be made for them. I do not wish to take any more time of the House. I oppose all the cut motions and support the grants.

Shri S. C. Samanta (Tamluk): My hon. friend Prof. H. N. Mukerji put a question to the hon. Minister: whether the P. and T. Department is a public utility concern, or it is a commercial concern. With it I want to put another question and it is this: Is the Posts and Telegraphs Department a revenue earning department?

When I ask this I remember the words of Shri K. C. Neogy, who speaking in 1924 in the old Central Legislative Assembly here put a similar question to the then Communications Member, Shri Atul Chatterjee as to whether the Posts and Telegraphs Department was a revenue-earning department. Shri Atul Chatterjee said:

"I entirely agree with Mr. Neogy in considering that the post offices should be looked upon as a public utility service. But in the same way as the Railways and any other organisation which are for the benefit of the general public utility services, they should at the same time pay their way.

I consider that the Post and Telegraphs Department should pay its own way and I have the authority of my hon. friend the Finance Minister in saying that the Government do not look upon the Posts and Telegraphs Department as a revenue-earning department."

I am very sorry the hon. the Finance Minister is not in his seat now. Had he been here, we would have been able to hear from both the Ministers as to whether this is a revenue earning department or not.

All the Ministers of the Treasury Benches and all the friends in this House and the public at large will surely and strongly admit that the Posts and Telegraphs Department is not a revenue-earning department. It is a utility concern, or utility plus commercial concern. So, when it is a utility concern, we must compare it with the Railways whose finances were separated in the same year, 1924.

What do we find now in the Railways? The Railways have a depreciation fund; the Railways have a reserve fund; the Railways

[Shri S. C. Samanta]

have other development funds with which they can carry on capital works etc. They can give facilities and benefits to the officers, to the staff as well as to the passengers. But what do we find here in the Posts and Telegraphs Department? We find it is a lucrative concern. We find from the account of the activities of this Department that 50 per cent. of the surplus goes outright to the General fund and the remaining 50 per cent. also goes to the General fund as accumulated surplus reserve fund. But you will be astonished to hear that the Posts and Telegraphs Department can only draw 3.1 per cent. interest from it, in spite of its difficulties, in spite of its doing works for the good of the Department, for telegraphs, for telephones, for the amenities of the staff, etc. It is a deposit *pro forma*. It cannot be drawn. Whenever the Posts and Telegraphs Department is in need of money for doing works, they have to go to the General Fund. They have earned the money: they have deposited it with the General fund; but when they want to spend it, they have to pray to the General fund. They will not allow the sum deposited to be spent. They will only allow the interest, and if they think it proper they may grant some money.

The House knows that our friend the ex-Minister, Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai when he took charge of this Department wanted to improve the telephone department and he was very eager to do it. He prayed for money; but money was not coming forth—there were difficulties in the General fund. We cannot blame the Finance Department. He did not get the money. He had to create the capital for it. By 'Own-Your-Phone' system he created that money and we find that the system is improving day by day. My concrete proposal therefore is that the Posts and Telegraphs finance should at once be separated from the general finance, as has been done in the case of the Railways.

What is the position of this Department we find today? In 1924, in his Budget speech on the 12th March, 1924, Diwan Bahadur A. M. Ramachandra Rao said: one post office in India serves 85 square miles in Bihar and Orissa, 72 square miles in Punjab, 68 square miles in U.P., 50 square miles in Bombay and Madras, and 40 square miles in Bengal and Assam. In 1953 what is the position? One

Post office, on an average, serves 12 square miles in India. This is the improvement that has been effected by the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

The number of post offices today is 42,427. Out of it the number of rural post offices is 36,741. I have calculated that one post office has been started for every 8,410 persons now. The number of post offices on 15th August 1947 was 22,116. Now it is 42,427. In 4,837 villages having a population of two thousand or more, post offices have been opened since 1947.

The capital at charge of the Railways is Rs. 800 crores. The capital at charge of the Posts and Telegraphs Department is Rs. 60 crores. Let the finance of the Posts and Telegraphs Department be separated and let the General revenues charge 3.1 per cent. or let it be four per cent at the best, so that Government will not lose, and let the Posts and Telegraphs Department have the liberty and the power to go on with its improvement works.

And what are the difficulties? My friends on the other side have pointed out so many difficulties. We ourselves also know. They are expanding the postal departments and the telegraph and telephone departments. But what are the conditions of the workers? They are not able to provide them with suitable houses. Even our post offices, most of them, are in rented buildings. Why should such a lucrative concern have rented buildings? You would have seen the sub-offices where so many persons work and if they continue to work like that, within a very few years their health will break down. Complaints have been made in this House that there are cases where these workers have been attacked even with T. B. because of the bad housing conditions.

Shri Nambiar:—Hear, hear.

Shri Raj Bahadur: You take pleasure in it; it makes you happy.

Dr. Rama Rao (Kakinada): No. Because Congress Members support it. That is all.

Shri S. C. Samanta: You must cure the disease at its root. Because, if in this way work increases day by day and we are not able to give any facilities to the workers, then this Department will fall.

So I propose to the hon. Minister in charge of Communications, to the hon. the Finance Minister though he is not present, and the Cabinet to consider this matter thoughtfully. And it is not a new thing. In the British regime they wanted to separate the Posts and Telegraphs finances. But because the Posts and Telegraphs Department was running at a loss they could not do it. Then the war came on and other things came on. Now that the Posts and Telegraphs Department is not only self-supporting but is even giving dividends, this is the opportune time when Government should save this Department, separate its finances and take four per cent. interest on the capital.

Shri Nambiar: It is too much.

Shri Raj Bahadur: It must be on a par with the Railways.

Shri S. C. Samanta: It is not too much because it has to help the General revenue with at least 3.1 per cent.

I place these proposals before Government and I think the hon. Ministers who, I think, will take the burden upon their heads and carry them out.

Mr. Chairman: Shri Muniswamy.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Sir, cannot the debate be extended? It has been a one-sided debate. And those of us who want to speak about Civil Aviation will not get any time unless the time is extended.

Mr. Chairman: I do not know how it can be called an one-sided debate. All sides are being called.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Only the Posts and Telegraphs side has been discussed. It is in that way I meant.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: You cannot help it if the speakers do not speak on other subjects.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: We are there to speak, Sir.

Shri Muniswamy: Much has been said about the various aspects of the Postal Department. I should like to confine myself to a department which the House will be surprised to know is called "extra-departmental staff" who are paid no salary by the Government. There is a department which is being run by our Ministry, who are not at all paid any salary. From the report which has been given I should say that there are 52,896 persons who are not paid any salary. The extra-de-

partmental staff are, for all practical purposes, placed on a par with the other departmental employees. The hon. Finance Minister stated in the recent Budget speech that they are opening 16,000 rural post offices which are mainly to be conducted and run by the extra-departmental staff. It is said that for every 2,000 persons a sub-office or an extra-departmental agent should be appointed. A person who is supposed to work in an area of 2,000 persons is paid Rs. 20. The nature of the work is almost the same as that of a Government servant. It is said that he is doing only casual nature of work. But what we find is that he has to attend to the work for more than eight or ten hours. I regret to point out that they are made inefficient by paying them Rs. 20. It is called an allowance. And there is no leave. He has to work throughout the thirty days of the month without any leave. It is quite natural to expect that he might have to go on leave for a day. But there is no substitute provided by Government and he has to appoint a man for whom he has to pay from his pocket. And he is paid only Rs. 20. How can you expect him to do that? The hon. Minister was proud enough to say: "we are opening 16,000 rural post offices." It is easy even to open 20,000 of them. I humbly submit that one cannot take pride in saying: "I am the father of ten children."

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It requires a little amount of commonsense.

6 P.M.

Shri Muniswamy: How to maintain them? How to protect them? I therefore wish to submit at the outset that the extra-departmental staff is a neglected staff at present. They are not paid any house rent. They have to keep their post offices in their houses for which no rent is paid. The Pay Commission, if I am correct, have recommended that pay should be fixed according to the hours of work and in most of the offices, they work more than eight and ten hours except in a very few offices where they work for four or five hours.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Perhaps the hon. Member does not understand what an extra-departmental post office is.

Shri Muniswamy: I am the President of the South Arcot extra-departmental Postal Union. I am seeing every day those people. They are paid Rs. 20 and they are asked to deliver cards and money orders. They do not deliver them. They keep them for two or three days. How

[Shri Muniswamy]

can they go on with Rs. 20? I must submit that the scale of the postal extra-departmental staff should be increased or they should be treated as Government servants.

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is not pay.

Shri Muniswamy: Pay means allowance, allowance means rupees! You cannot pay an allowance.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: They should not accept, they should resign.

Shri Muniswamy: I submit another thing. The Pay Commission's recommendations have not been implemented. For one thing they are treated as Government servants; they are not allowed to contest *panchayat* board elections but recently there was a change. Even in Madras State it seems they are barred from standing for *panchayat* board elections. What does it mean? They are treated as Government servants by not being allowed to stand for elections.

I do not want to take more time of the House. I have something to say about the accountants. There is an Accounting Branch where they do administrative as well as executive work. In each Head Post Office and Record Office you have got accountants. They are paid only a very small amount of Rs 30/- as additional allowance, not pay. A Special Officer was appointed to investigate and go through the matters but the Special Officer said he had no time to go into the affairs of the Accounting Branch. Why do the Government not appoint another gentleman? In these days of corruption and scandals, the only Department where we can expect some sincerity and honesty is the Postal Department. I request the hon. Minister to see that at least that sincerity and honesty is retained.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Which post office it relates to?

Shri Muniswamy: I am talking about all post offices. At least an assistant accountant should be appointed or the emoluments should be increased from Rs. 30 to something more.

It has been said in the Five Year Plan that.....

Shri Jagjivan Ram: In what place?

Shri Muniswamy: In the Five Year Plan it is nothing but a summary of all the grievances hitherto represented by the Postal Unions. It has been requested repeatedly that at least they

should be given the lower selection grade. I request the hon. Minister to look into the matter if at all he wants.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Lower selection grade scale to extra-departmental offices?

Shri Muniswamy: You are not following me. I am talking about the accountants. There is an accountant in all the Head Post Offices and in the Record Office as well as in the RMS. The accountants have to do both administrative and executive work for which they are paid an additional sum of Rs. 30/-. A Special Officer was appointed to go into the matter regarding the time test but he had no time to go into the matter.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I shall be grateful if the hon. Member points out which particular office he refers to.

Shri Muniswamy: I am not referring to a particular office, I am referring to a policy.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Which Circle?

Shri Muniswamy: Another thing. There was a proposal to give house rent where the population exceeded more than one lakh. At present it is being given in Calcutta and Bombay only. As per the latest census, Madras City and Delhi should also be included in that list so that they may get the house rent allowance. I also request the hon. Minister to look into this.

In Pondicherry the Indian currency is scrapped and the merchants in Pondicherry want Indian currency. I request that the postal employees in the French Settlements should be given some more consideration so that they may get things easier. These are most important things which I wanted to point out.

I would like to say something about amenities. As far as I know, many post offices are rented buildings and there are certain post offices where the postmaster resides in the same office which has got no lavatories or bathrooms. I cannot say offhand which post office it is. Therefore, I submit once again all such things should be expedited so that you can have some efficient people to work.

The percentage of promotion of the postmen to the clerical grade should be increased. I request the hon. Minister to go into these matters.

I do not want to take more time of the House. I have said about extra-departmental staff, about accountants, about Postal employees in Pondicherry, especially.

Shri B. N. Misra (Bilaspur-Durg-Raipur): I will, first of all, deal with Civil Aviation. As we know, Government has got at present 49 per cent. of the share capital. As per the report, we see that in 1952-53, the Government had to give aid to Air India International to the extent of Rs. 25 lakhs and there is also a budget estimate that a similar amount will be given in the present year. Moreover, no funds are provided for it. Financially no improvements have been achieved by all these private companies and there is no likelihood that they will improve in the near future. I would only say that the earlier we take steps for the nationalisation of this industry the better it is. At present we see that there are nine companies. So far as my information goes, they are having our internal and external air services. Out of these, there are 57 services and we find that most of the companies are at present plying Dakota plane services. As regards Dakota aeroplanes, we all know, and Government knows, that they are out-of-date and obsolete. It is not safe to fly by the Dakota planes. So, the proverb goes: "Travel by any other plane services and you can see the other world; travel by the Deccan Airways and you can see the next world". The reason is only this. It is only the Deccan Airways that have almost all Dakota planes. These private companies do not have the funds. They are very sincere; they want to change their planes and get Constellations or Vikings or Sky-masters. But, they are not able to do so for want of funds. It is our Government which has always to come to their help. The only thing that I would suggest is, nationalise them. Let there be only one Government Air service. Then only could we improve the things.

So much has been said regarding post offices. I need not go into that matter because it will be merely a repetition of what other people have said. Only one point that I found missing was as regards the complaints side. Our Posts and Telegraphs Department has a complaints organisation. I say that it is a complete failure. After the partition, this Department had to face a certain deterioration in the set-up, in the quality of the personnel. The number of complaints mounted to unprecedented figures. Till now we see that the posi-

tion has not improved. I would like to give the House an idea as to the number of complaints that are still pending. On 31st December 1952, as also on the present day, we have the figure for pending complaints being 34,249. Previous to that, on 31st December 1951, it was 44,830; previous to that on the same date it was 58,301. Looking at these figures, the question arises, having this big organisation at such great public expense, what is the out-turn? Very negligible. I would only suggest that if this organisation proves inefficient, it should be completely abolished. If that has to be maintained at such a great cost, it should run properly.

I now take up the telephone system. I had been to the Trunk Exchange here and saw the big graphical chart that was hanging by the side of Mr. Chauhan's table. A lot of improvement has been made and the number of trunk calls has increased by leaps and bounds. The number of cancellations is also decreasing. This is a very good sign. Much has been done. But, all the same, we see that there is delay in this trunk call system. When use of the trunk telephone by the public is increasing day by day, we must also see there is no delay. The system of 'No delay call' as we have for Simla, Agra, etc., should be introduced for all places. The only thing that I can suggest is to introduce the dialling system in the trunk exchange. Suppose I have to book a call for Bombay. If the operator here, he or she whoever it may be, could dial the number at Bombay, that would eliminate the delay. This is not a new thing. If this system is introduced, I think much of the delay will be avoided.

We have heard so much about feminising the Trunk Telephone Exchange. I have got my own views, my own doubts and my own fears. Of course, not much light has been thrown upon this question by Government. The other day the hon. Deputy Minister pointed out that the Government is going to completely feminise the Exchange. It is not only the operators who are there. There are mechanics and so many others. The question is, if you are going to feminise the Exchange, what about these technical staff people, who have got to check the lines? This checking work is done at odd hours in the night before six o'clock, in the morning. Is it the intention of the Government to employ women in all the branches and not only have female operators? The supervisors are men. There will be a lot of difficulty if the lines are not

[Shri B. N. Misra]

checked up between these odd hours, and there will be much more deterioration in the outturn of work. Government has come forward to say that they will arrange for their transport. Will it be possible to give transport facilities to all the operators to their respective homes. The operators, as the Government knows, come from all the corners of Delhi and we know how big a problem it is. Will it be possible to ensure a safe journey? Government cannot give a guarantee for their safe journey. Moreover, many fathers have not the courage to send their girls and sisters to duty all the night and at odd hours. The plan is still under consideration. I would say to the Government, let them not repeat the Hindi proverb:

“सिर कटे काहूँ का,
और लड़का सीखे नाक का”

which means, let not the barber's son become perfect in his profession at the cost of others' heads.

I come from Raipur. At Baloda Bazar, which is a sub-division, there is no public call office. There has been a great demand for this by the authorities. It is also the headquarters of the *janapad sabha*. I would request the hon. Minister to look into the matter early.

Shri Thimmaiah (Kolar—Reserved—Sch. Castes): The P. & T. Department is one of the biggest concerns managed by the Government. It has close contact with the people and it renders service by day and night, and even during holidays. It is the opinion of the public and also of the Members of this House that the P. & T. Department is well known for its efficiency and promptness in discharging its duties. It is but right to pay tribute to the various employees of the Department, and the officers whose hard and sincere work is responsible for this efficiency and honesty in the Department. (An Hon. Member: And also the Minister): It is needless to say that the telephone section of this Department is also equally efficient, although often telephones do not work properly and if we dial a particular number, it reaches another number, thereby causing inconvenience. Similarly too is the telephone directory. In my State the telephone Directory, instead of guiding us, misleads us. It is very difficult to find the correct telephone number of any one. I refer particularly to the Directory in Mysore.

Coming to the telephone rates, recently the Government, under the flat rate system, has increased this rate. It is a sudden rise. Considering the standard of life and the income of the people, in different states it is, in my opinion, considerably high. The rent ought to be reduced and I request the hon. Minister to see that reasonably different rates are fixed at different places in the country. The Minister knows it. Often people have complained to him and represented to him that the rent of the telephone is too high.

Coming to the extension of telephone facilities, I am glad that the Ministry has opened certain telephone exchanges in Mysore State, and they are going to open one more in a commercial town like Arsekere. Arsekere is a commercial centre and a big railway junction. Although they have undertaken to open exchanges in certain places in the country, it is stated in the report that for want of funds these may be dropped out. I request the hon. Minister to see that Arsekere, which is included in the list, should not be dropped out, and that a telephone exchange ought to be opened there. Similarly, there is another commercial centre in Mysore State, *viz.*, Bangarpet, near Kolar. It is a railway junction and a commercial centre, and is situated near Kolar Gold Fields. I request the hon. Minister to see that as early as possible telephone facilities are made available in that particular town.

Next, coming to the extension of these postal facilities, I am glad to note that the Department has made considerable progress in that direction, and that every village which has a population of 2,000 has got or is getting a post office. But in certain areas, hill-type areas, and the Malnad area, where it is not possible to find a village which has got a population of 2,000 and the Department finds it difficult to open post offices, I beg to submit to the hon. Minister that a group of villages might be formed the population of which may come to 2,000 and the post office may be opened.

Regarding telegraph facilities, I am sorry to state that even in certain taluk headquarters we have not got telegraph facilities, and the people of the taluk headquarters are cut off from the district headquarters, and thereby they experience inconvenience. This facility ought to be extended to all taluk headquarters and district head-

quarters as early as possible; and, if not a telephone exchange, at least a public call office should be opened in every district headquarters, thereby providing facilities for the public.

Coming to the location of the post offices in certain places, I have seen personally that the accommodation is insufficient. In certain places the post offices are located in old type of buildings, and in some places in a private house of which the postmaster—particularly in branch offices—will be a landlord or a teacher; or, if he is an orthodox Hindu, he will not allow certain sections of the people inside, and thereby those people suffer a certain inconvenience. This ought to be taken into consideration by our hon. Minister. Further, in post offices there will be at least four or five persons, and they deal with important and valuable things, and there is not sufficient accommodation. I have seen even in Delhi there is not sufficient accommodation in certain post offices. This ought to be taken into consideration, and the required accommodation should be provided for each post office.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member wanted only five minutes. Let him finish now so that I may call upon another Member.

Shri Thimmaiah: Only two minutes I shall take.

Mr. Chairman: That means another person cannot be called. If he wants to finish, let him finish, or let him go on for another five minutes.

Shri Thimmaiah: Lastly, I submit to the hon. Minister—he knows it better than I, but I feel it my duty to represent to him—that the inadequate representation of the Scheduled Castes people in the Posts & Telegraphs Department should be considered. I request him to lay a statement, showing the number of Scheduled Castes officials in the Department, on the Table of the House at least once a year so that Members may know whether the promise of reservation of a certain percentage of vacancies for the Scheduled Castes people is being implemented or not. I hope the hon. Minister will consider this and lay on the Table of the House such statements.

Mr. Chairman: Lala Achint Ram. Only for five minutes.

लाला अचिन्त राम (हिसार) : मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर मैं दो एक बातें भर्ज न करता और यह डिबेट उनके बगैर खत्म हो जाता तो शायद मुनासिब नहीं होता। इस साल हमारी इस मिनिस्ट्री ने जो सब से बड़ा काम किया है वह यह है कि जो पिछले ६ वर्ष से उसका भगड़ा पोस्टमेन यूनियन से चल रहा था और जो बरकरार की स्ट्राइक के दिनों की तनखाह नहीं मिली थी और नौबत यहां तक पहुंच चुकी थी कि पोस्टमेन यूनियन की तरफ से स्ट्राइक का नोटिस भी दे दिया गया था और मामला काफ़ी तूल पकड़ गया था, उसको मिनिस्ट्री ने बड़ी अक्लमंदी से हल किया और श्री जयप्रकाश का जो २१ दिन का व्रत चल रहा था वह समाप्त हो गया, मैं इस मामले को सुलझाने पर मिनिस्टर साहब को और उनके महकमे को बधाई देता हूँ। इस फैसले से न केवल लम्बा भगड़ा समाप्त हुआ बल्कि राजनैतिक क्षेत्र का वायु मण्डल भी साफ हुआ। इस मामले को हल करने का सारा क्रेडिट गवर्नमेंट ने लिया है और दूसरे मुल्क के भन्दर इलेक्शन्स जितने पीसफुली हुए हैं, वह दुनिया में अपना रेकार्ड कायम करते हैं और मैं समझता हूँ कि इस विभाग का इस काम को इतनी शांतिपूर्वक कराने में बहुत बड़ा हिस्सा है। इस विभाग ने इलेक्शन्स के वक्त तार और टेलीफून की फ़ैसिलिटी सब पार्टियों को दी और अपना सारा काम बहुत एफ़िशियेन्टली और स्पीड के साथ डिस्पोज़ आफ़ किया और अगर यह एक घाघ बातें इस वक्त यहां पर नहीं कही जातीं और डिबेट को खत्म कर दिया जाता तो शायद मुनासिब नहीं होता।

इसके अलावा मिनिस्टर साहब ने पोस्ट-मैनो और कर्मचारियों के लिए इस बात

[लाला अचिन्त राम]

की राहत कर दी है कि पी० एम० जी० उन लोगों के साथ हर महीने अपनी मीटिंग कर लिया करें और जहां पर वह अपने ग्रीवियान्सेज और शिकायतों को पेश करें और मुहकमे के अधिकारियों के पास तक पहुंचाये, यह बड़ी अच्छी बात हुई है और इस सुविधा के मिलने से गरीब पोस्टमैनों और हरकारों के अन्दर विश्वास पैदा हो गया है, कि मुहकमा उनके साथ अच्छा सलूक करता है लेकिन इसके बावजूद भी मैं आपसे अर्ज करूँ कि उनके अन्दर एक तरह का स्ट्रेस्ड फ्रस्ट्रेशन मौजूद है और जब तक हम उसको रिमूव नहीं करेंगे उस वक्त तक लोगों के दिलों के अन्दर सच्ची तसल्ली पैदा नहीं हो सकेगी।

इस काम के लिये मैं आपसे कहना चाहूँगा कि जैसा मेरे एक मोहतरम दोस्त ने सुझाव दिया कि जब तक यह मुहकमा जनरल फ्राइनेंस से अलहिदा नहीं किया जाता, तब तक हमारा काम ठीक तरह जैसा हम चाहते हैं नहीं चल सकता। आज नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि हमारे प्रपोजल्स फ्राइनेंस डिपार्टमेंट में जाते हैं, और वहां वह प्रपोजल्स दो, चार और ६ महीने तक बैसे पड़े रहते हैं, यह बेचारे अपने यहां से रेकमेंड करके भेजते हैं, लेकिन फ्राइनेंस काफ़ी वक्त लगा देता है और उसके बाद उस पर राजी नहीं होता, मेरा तो सुझाव यह है कि जिस प्रपोजल को यह मुहकमा फ्राइनेंस के पास मंजूरी के लिए भेजे और अगर फ्राइनेंस डिपार्टमेंट में उस पर दो महीने से ज्यादा अर्सा बीत जाय, तो जो प्रपोजल इस विभाग का हो वह फ्राइनेल समझा जाय, ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए कि आप प्रपोजल्स पर दो, चार और छे २ महीने लगा दें, देरी तो फ्राइनेंस लगावे और बदनामी

उस बेचारे कम्युनिकेशन्स डिपार्टमेंट की होती है।

शिक्षा, प्राकृतिक संसाधन तथा वैज्ञानिक अनुसन्धान मंत्री (मौलाना आजाद) : कौन सी मिनिस्ट्री में चार २ और छे २ महीने लगाये जाते हैं ?

लाला अचिन्त राम : फ्राइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री में लगाये जाते हैं।

मिसाल के तौर पर मैं आपको बतलाऊँ कि फ्राइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री में एक रिप्रेजेंटेशन गया हुआ है, आठ महीने हो जाते हैं, लोगों ने उसके बारे में बड़ी शिकायत की, एक नहीं चार छे रिप्रेजेंटेशन भेजे, और पूछ-ताछ की तो आठ सात महीने के बाद भी कुछ फ़ैसला नहीं होता है, इसी तरह की और भी कई छोटी २ बातें हैं लेकिन अब वक्त नहीं है। मेरी तजवीज़ यह है कि जो प्रपोजल यह मुहकमा भेजे तो या तो फ्राइनेंस दो महीने के अन्दर २ उसके बारे में फ़ैसला दे दे नहीं तो उस प्रपोजल को फ्राइनेल समझा जाय क्योंकि आखिर बदनामी तो उस मुहकमे की ही होती है।

इसके अलावा मुझे आपके टेलीफोन विभाग के बारे में यह शिकायत करनी है कि वहां पर करप्शन चल रहा है, गरीब आदमियों को टेलीफोन काल नहीं मिलती है लेकिन विज़नेसमेन को रात को नौ बजे फौरन मिलती है चूँकि उससे रुपया मिलने की उम्मीद होती है, उसको जल्दी काल मिल जाता है। मुहकमे वाले अफसरों की माहवारी बन्धी होती है। वक्त बहुत थोड़ा है, इस वास्ते मैं और ज्यादा अर्ज नहीं करना चाहता, लेकिन मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप इधर ध्यान दें और इस खराबी को दूर करने की कोशिश करें।

दूसरी बात में हिन्दी के टेलिग्राम के मुताल्लिक भर्ज करना चाहता हूँ। आप ने हिन्दी के मुताल्लिक अपने हिसाब से बहुत कुछ किया, लेकिन तब भी बहुत नाकाफी किया। हिन्दी टेलीग्राम को आप सस्ता कर दीजिये तो उस से आपको आमदनी ज्यादा होगी। आप जहाँ नये तार घर खोलते हैं वहाँ इसको चलाइये। आपने १५ साल का टाइम रखा है लेकिन इस तरह से आप इतने टाइम में इस को कैसे पूरा कर सकेंगे। मैं जानता हूँ कि हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब और डिप्टी मिनिस्टर साहब दोनों के दिल में हिन्दी के लिये प्रेम है। लेकिन मैं चाहता हूँ कि वह हिन्दी के तार को सस्ता करें, इस से आमदनी भी बढ़ जायेगी और हिन्दी का भी प्रचार बढ़ेगा।

आखिर में मैं आप को बधाई देता हूँ कि आप ने अपने मुहकमे को इतनी अच्छी तरह चलाया है।

श्री गणपति राम (ज़िला जौनपुर—पूर्व—रक्षित—अनुसूचित जातियाँ) : माननीय सभापति जी, मैं दो मिनट ले कर आप का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. In this way, every hon. Member has got something very important to urge, and I find myself unable to accommodate each and every Member.

श्री गणपति राम : मैं केवल दो मिनट आप का समय लूँगा।

Mr. Chairman: I know the hon. Member says he wants to take only two minutes. There is another lady Member who wants to take five minutes. I would request the hon. Minister to start his speech after five minutes.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: It is unfortunate that we cannot extend this debate. Anyway, I shall just say a few words on the Civil Aviation Department on which the debate has not dwelt very much. The very first thing that I would like to say is that we have always been talking

about our great love and care for the technical staff in our country. But in the case of the Civil Aviation Department which has within itself some of the most highly skilled technicians that we have, we find that even in that department, the service conditions of the people are in a bad state.

First and foremost, I will take the question of the pilots. We have some of the finest pilots in our country, and we have produced such people as Ranjan Datt, Mazumdar etc., and still we find that we have foreign pilots in many of the aviation companies, drawing a salary of Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000 p.m. It is not that I have anything against having a few foreign pilots, but the point is that today there is tremendous unemployment among these pilots. We have about one hundred commercial pilots who are unemployed. They have spent Rs. 14,000 to Rs. 15,000 on training and to day many of them have to go about on scheduled lines without pay even for their expenses, and they are called 'tiffin carrier pilots'. There are many of them whom I know personally. Their conditions of service also I know, and I would not like to take up the time of the House in describing them, because I have not got that much of time.

The same thing is true of engineers also. In the case of most of the engineers, we find that they have to work on the pay of mechanics in many companies. In many companies, we find that the entire overhauling and the job of servicing and maintenance is done by apprentices who are kept on hanging for years together in the hope of a job. One can hardly call them anything but *begar* labour.

As far as the service conditions of the Civil Aviation staff are concerned, I would just like to show how in the budget estimates, there is a topheavy administration. For instance under Demand No. 9 we find that the number of officers in 1952-53 was 62, while in 1953-54 it is estimated to be 81, while the Grants have increased from about Rs. 8.34 lakhs to about Rs. 9.26 lakhs. As against this, we find that the strength of the staff has decreased from 438 to 434, though slight. On the other hand, we find that in the case of officers, the revised estimates for 1952-53 exceed the original estimates by about Rs. 50,400. In the case of the staff, on the contrary, the revised estimate is less than the original budget estimates by about one lakh of rupees. What does this show? It shows on the one hand that we have 81 officers presiding over 434 persons

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belonging to the staff, which means a ratio of about one to five or six. On the other hand, we find that there is a great overload of work on the staff.

For instance, I would like to bring to your notice the question of leave and holidays which they are enjoying. They have no Government holidays or Sundays. In some places they have to work about 14 hours a day per week, and all the *chowkidars* in class IV have to work, I believe, about 12 hours a day throughout the year, and of course, like the other servants of this class, they are also denied the benefit of the general provident fund schemes, and free medical facilities for their families. This question of overwork is a very serious one.

I read in the papers the other day about the incidence of accidents. After atmospherics, the second cause responsible for these accidents, was said to be pilot fatigue. All this certainly points to overwork.

There is one other point on which I would just like to touch for a minute, and that is the question of housing conditions. We know that these airports are very far away from the towns, and we find that because of the dearth of housing facilities, the staff there, who are also not given transport, have to pay most of their wages on very high rates for accommodation as well as transport. Generally there are very few houses, and they have to live in dilapidated old ramshackle barracks. For these, they are expected to pay ten per cent. of their pay as rent, which is the one paid for an ordinary house with full amenities. The P. & T. Department after a certain amount of negotiations have been able to get five per cent charged for this barrack accommodation. But up till now, this has not been granted to the Civil Aviation Department staff.

I would like to say something about the medical facilities. Many of these places are very much out of the way, they are malaria-infested, and I would like to bring to the notice of this House the case of the *chowkidars* who died a little while ago by black-water fever and yet we find that in the budget estimates though there is a provision for the opening of hospitals for the treatment of yellow fever, there is hardly any provision for medical facilities in big airports, for those who fall ill.

I would also like to show something about accommodation here. In the budget, on the capital expenditure, we see that out of a total of Rs. 232

lakhs, hardly Rs. 27 lakhs are provided for staff residential accommodation. That too is to be spread over 23 stations. With a conservative estimate, we could hardly get more than a hundred quarters. When such is the case, we find that the revised estimates for 1952-53 at a time when there was great dearth of housing accommodation, actually show a reduction by about Rs. 21 lakhs.

These are some of the points which I would like to place before the House. The question of the education of their children is also a very serious one, because we find that they are unable to give any education to their children, as they are living as much as ten to fifteen miles away from any educational centre. I have seen some of the air fields like Agartala, Kailashar, Mohanbari, and Bagdogra and I know what the position is. I would therefore end by saying that we should have a contented staff, who should live under certain basic minimum living conditions.

It is necessary that trade union rights must be granted to them. Many of the hon. Members have already spoken about giving recognition to the CADEU union. It is well known that there is only one union in the case of this department, and there is no question of two or three different unions. Already the hon. Minister has told us that he commends only one union, and according to his budget speech and his advice to the different unions, this CADEU union has come about, and it is necessary that that union must be recognised at the earliest opportunity. It is a fully recognised registered trade union, and therefore I hope that the trade union rights will be granted to them. Already they have taken away the clause allowing outsiders to become members of the union. In spite of that, victimisation has taken place in the case of four Madras officials—about which the hon. Minister is very well aware—because they were carrying on trade union activities, and those trade union activities were looked down by the administrative officials, and so those four Madras officials have been notified about it.

This Civil Aviation Department is a very important department. It is a growing organisation on which the lives of many people depend, and we really want that it should be expanded: and if we really want to have an efficient system then it is this vital factor, the working people, the people in the over-alls and the cockpits, who must

have the best of everything that we could spare for them.

Therefore, I beg to support the cut motions.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

Shri Jagjivan Ram: There have been 17 speeches including four maidens. (Interruption) That is for you to say.

Bouquets have been thrown practically from every side of the House; a few brickbats too. I join the hon. Members in paying my tribute to the employees of the Department who in spite of various hardships and difficulties have stood the test. In the Communications Ministry, we have several departments. But notice has been taken in the House mainly of two departments—Civil Aviation and Posts and Telegraphs. I will first say something about the Civil Aviation Department regarding which my friend, Mr. Jaipal Singh—whom I do not find in his seat at present—started his old theme of handing over this department to the Defence Department. He has practically repeated the same arguments which he advanced last year and I do not propose to repeat the same old arguments in reply thereto. I will refer to my speech last year. If Civil Aviation is to be treated, as he rightly pointed out, as a second line of defence, the very argument justifies that it should be separate from the Defence Ministry and should be allowed the fullest scope for development so that in times of emergency it can function as an efficient second line of defence. I do not want to dilate on this point.

I myself know that the employees in the Civil Aviation Department, apart from those who are engaged in the commercial lines, have many difficulties arising out of the fact that in many places they have to serve at airports which are at a distance from the cities. This very fact raises certain difficulties as regards medical facilities for them and education for their children. As soon as I visited one or two airports, this point struck me and I have already asked my advisers and officers to examine how we can provide facilities for the transport of the children of our officers from airports to the cities so that they can attend their schools and colleges. I have also asked them to examine how we can provide medical facilities for them. These are the obvious difficulties which we ourselves are looking into. They do not need to be pointed out to us by unions or organisations; these are patent facts.

Shri Nambiar: Sometimes you forget. That is the difficulty.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Well, then about the housing, we have difficulties. These places are out of the way; we have not provided enough accommodation. Sometimes our officers and staff have to be transported and we have provided transport facilities by our own staff-cars and we charge only nominal fees. This, however, is not entirely satisfactory and we will have to construct a large number of quarters for the officers and staff. If hon. Members will examine the Budget, they will find that we are providing a very large number of quarters at Dum Dum and Santa Cruz airports and we have a scheme to provide quarters at other airports as well.

The other point was raised—about the recognition of unions. I myself want to encourage organisations among the employees. I want that they should organise and we should be in a position to talk to each other across the table and settle the differences, if any, or try to remove their grievances as far as we can do. The question whether these unions should be recognised as regular trade unions or as service associations is still under consideration. It is a matter of policy. It affects employees of other departments of the Government as well, and the Ministry of Home Affairs is the competent Ministry to determine and decide all such matters, as affect the employees and Government servants of all the Ministries. The matter is still being considered by the Home Ministry and as soon as they have taken a decision, we will communicate that to our employees.

One thing I want to make clear at this stage. I am all for encouraging organisation among employees of the Department but I will be the last person to tolerate any sense of indiscipline among the employees simply because of the fact that they happen to be office-bearers of some union or other. So much as far as Civil Aviation is concerned.

Now, I come to the Posts and Telegraphs Department. One or two fundamental questions have been raised about the P & T Department. A question was posed whether the Department is a commercial department or a public utility service. The answer has been given to some extent by my hon. friend, Mr. Samanta, who has posed another question that the P & T should have separate finances like the Railway Ministry. It is too big a question to be answered just at the moment. But the Postal Department has up till now been functioning as a combination of a commercial department and a public utility service.

An Hon. Member: It is like our mixed economy.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Well, it requires something and some time to understand mixed things.

And it is not very difficult to co-ordinate the two. We are basically a department engaged in utility service. That fact cannot be ignored. At the same time, we have been trying to function in such a way that we can make both ends meet. To that extent, it may be regarded as a commercial department. We try not to run the department at the cost of the tax-payer. We try, as far as possible, to earn our way out. So, it may be, from that point of view, regarded as a commercial department but basically it is a department engaged in public utility service. I do not want to say anything more on that point.

I will come to some of the grievances and difficulties pointed out. The question of accommodation, whether it is for office or for residences is a question which is facing the Department at present. Ever since I have assumed charge of this Ministry, I have been noticing everywhere an appalling shortage of accommodation for offices as well as residences. There is no denying the fact that some of the offices which were constructed hundreds of years ago, when there was practically no business in that area have developed and grown. The traffic has grown manifold but the accommodation remains the same. We have to huddle together the staff there and, in some places, we have not enough space to put as many chairs as we require for our office staff in those offices. That is a fact. I say, looking into the figures, we have 5,000 rented houses under our possession at present. And in many of these houses the accommodation is not satisfactory and up to our requirements. The same applies to residential accommodation also. But, we have to cover the deficiency of the last so many years and we will have to make earnest efforts in that direction. It is no use blaming the Department. We have certain obvious difficulties. It is not the financial difficulty alone, but there are others as well. Money was provided in previous years' Budget and it lapsed. My hon. friend from Assam made a grievance of it. I know the Assam case. I personally took up the question with the Assam Government and asked them whether they would help us with their own P.W.D. Similarly, I took up the matter with other State Governments and asked them whether they would come to our rescue.

Shri Nambiar: But they are ready now.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The Assam Government pleaded inability to help, but this year I have been trying, and I may succeed in seeing that the money provided for in the Budget is utilised during the course of the year and does not lapse. This is all I can say.

My hon. friend Shri H. N. Mukerjee raised a question which I could not understand. He said it was paradoxical that the Department was a commercial undertaking and a utility service. Perhaps, he was labouring under the misapprehension that the employees are affected adversely in the one case or the other. That is not correct. Whether the Department functions as a commercial undertaking or as a public utility service, the employees of the Central Government get the same salary and allowances as have been fixed by the Pay Commission and no discrimination is made as between employees working in the public utility services or in regular departments of the Government. So, whether the P. & T. Department works as a public utility service or as a commercial undertaking, so far as the employees are concerned, they are getting the same salary and allowances, and they have the same conditions of service as other Government employees have. So, I did not quite understand what his intention was, or what he had in mind, when on this question he wanted a Parliamentary Commission to be appointed. Perhaps, he was not clear in his mind or he had not studied this subject in all its aspects.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: You cannot solve the paradox. That is why.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have patience, and I expect the same in others.

As regards retrenchment consequent on the completion of the automatization scheme in Calcutta I may assure my hon. friend that there is going to be no retrenchment in the first phase. I will make every effort to see that all the telephone operators who are made surplus consequent on the automatization scheme are absorbed in the department.

As regards medical facilities, I have myself been trying for extending medical facilities to class IV employees. It is rather strange that all other officers of the Government get medical facilities not only for themselves but even for their families and yet up till now we have not been able to extend these medical facilities to the families of class IV employees. I have taken up that question and I think that some satis-

factory decision will be taken in the matter

There are other minor points which have been raised by individual Members. I can assure them that I will have them examined. All individual cases regarding a telephone office here or a post office there will be examined and as far as possible we will try to do our best in these matters.

Regarding Hindi, we are ourselves anxious to encourage Hindi as quickly as we can and if the lovers of Hindi and others will look into the summary report circulated by the Ministry, they will find that the progress during the last nine months has not been very unsatisfactory. Although only some 90 or 100 post offices are there where Hindi telegrams are booked and are accepted, the progress has been to some extent satisfactory. We have certain schemes to popularise Hindi more and more and I think next year I will be in a position to render a still better account of myself.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: What is the result of the nine months' progress?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am afraid I cannot answer individual questions. I am running with time.

In regard to extra-departmental post offices, I have only to say that only those persons who want to hold up the progress of development of post offices in rural areas will oppose the establishment of extra-departmental offices. It will be only those persons who will raise these objections who have no idea how extra-departmental post offices function in other countries. It is no use making a complaint that the employees in extra-departmental offices are not being paid the same salary and allowances as the departmental people. If they are paid the same salary and allowances, there is no use in having extra-departmental post offices. The very name 'extra-departmental' connotes that here we have some people managing these post offices, who are not regular employees of the Department and who are not paid the same salaries and allowances as the regular employees get. They are mostly retired people; they are not invariably passed matriculates. Some of them are engaged in other work; some have other means of livelihood. Nowhere in the world is rent paid for the extra-departmental post offices. So, if we have to encourage and increase the number of post offices in rural areas, we have to proceed on these lines.

My hon. friend Mr. Venkataraman—who is perhaps in his seat—raised the question, and its implication was, that perhaps I myself belonging to the province of Bihar was partial to Bihar. If that was his feeling that was very uncharitable. I would not have liked to mention this, but I am forced to. The total number of post offices opened from 14th August 1947 to 30th June 1952 in Bihar was 2,950, while in Madras it was 6,004. Now it is for my hon. friend Mr. Venkataraman to decide whether he should come to Bihar or I should go to Madras.

We are opening post offices in every village having a population of 2,000 or more. The Madras people who were alert during those years were able to cover most of their villages which fell in this category. Bihar perhaps lagged behind. I did not know these figures till it was pointed out by Mr. Venkataraman. Perhaps Bihar lagged behind and they are trying to cover up these villages during these two or three months. Naturally this year Bihar is having more. But as I have quoted the figures Mr. Venkataraman should rest assured that every village in Madras having a population of 2,000 or more will have a post office by the 31st of March of this year.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: What about other States?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Other States also.

But I should admit that this criterion of a population of 2,000 in a village has not given us very satisfactory results. In some areas in the same State there has been concentration of post offices, whereas in other areas for large distances we have no post offices. So, we have now issued a circular which the hon. Members will find in great detail in tomorrow's papers. I have no time to go into details of that. But we have decided that this population is to be related with distances, that no post office should be within three miles of another post office, that they should be so located that no person will have to walk more than two miles to reach a post office. That is the new scheme which we are going to pursue. There are certain hill tracts, where even if we applied this principle, we cannot have post offices. So, for frontier tracts and hill tracts in Assam, hill tracts in Tripura, Chhota Nagpur, Santal Parganas, Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir, hill areas in Bombay, Kutch, tribal areas and hill tracts in Madhya Pradesh and Madhya Bharat. We will deviate from this principle in order to have post offices. My idea is to cover during the next three years every area in such a way that no-

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

body will have to walk more than two miles to reach a post office. As regards telephones and telegraphs my idea is to cover every district headquarter, *tehsil* and sub-divisional headquarter and police headquarters with a telegraph office—police headquarters means *thana* headquarters. And we want to be liberal in the matter of public call offices and telephone exchanges. My friends may not relish the idea, but I am going to pursue the system of extra-departmental staff in respect of telegraph and telephone exchanges also. That is the way by which we can make telegraph and telephone facilities available to our rural areas.

I have no time. I thank hon. Members not only for their praises but also for extending their co-operation to the Department.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now I will put all the cut motions together.

The cut motions were negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper in respect of Demands Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 111, 112 and 113 be granted to the President to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954 in respect of the corresponding heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof."

The motion was adopted.

[The motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the House are reproduced below:—Ed. of P.P.]

DEMAND No. 5—MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,16,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Ministry of Communications'."

DEMAND No. 6—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES)

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 40,33,54,000 be granted to

the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)'."

DEMAND No. 7—METEOROLOGY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 99,89,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Meteorology'."

DEMAND No. 8—OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 83,40,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Overseas Communications Service'."

DEMAND No. 9—AVIATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,70,67,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Aviation'."

DEMAND No. 10—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,56,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Communications'."

DEMAND No. 111—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,87,81,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the

31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Indian Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)'."

DEMAND NO. 112—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL AVIATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,12,67,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation'."

DEMAND NO. 113—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,05,87,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Communications'."

MESSAGES FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATES

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following two messages received from the Secretary of the Council of States:

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, I am directed to return herewith the following Bills which were passed by the

House of the People at its sitting held on the 26th March, 1953, and transmitted to the Council of States for its recommendations and to state that the Council has no recommendations to make to the House of the People in regard to the said Bills:

- (1) The Patiala and East Punjab State Union Appropriation Bill, 1953.
- (2) The Patiala and East Punjab States Union Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1953
- (3) "Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1953." and

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 97 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Hyderabad Coinage and Paper Currency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 1953, which has been passed by the Council of States at its sitting held on the 28th March, 1953".

HYDERABAD COINAGE AND PAPER CURRENCY (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL

Secretary: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the Hyderabad Coinage and Paper Currency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 1953, as passed by the Council of States.

The House then adjourned till Two of the Clock on Monday, the 30th March, 1953.