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Title: Need to grant annual increment on percentage basis to 'Gramin Dak Sevak' at par with departmental employees.

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (SALEM): Sir, despite technological improvement in information and communication sector, postal services still have greater and wider connectivity. This is mainly due to the tireless and dedicated service of the postal employees. In the Postal Department, there are two types of employees. One category is of departmental employees and another category is of extra-departmental employees. The extra departmental employees are called as 'Gramin Dak Sevak'. The GDS has a long pending grievance which they have been expressing in various forums. While the department staff is given an increment of three per cent of their basic pay annually, the GDS are being paid an annual pay hike at a flat rate of Rs.60 to Rs.70 per year. They have not been provided with a pay hike on a percentage basis as in the case of the departmental staff. This is a gross discrimination. I do not understand the rationale behind the differential treatment meted out to the two types of employees. Hence, I would request the hon. Minister of Communications and Information Technology to look into the genuine grievance which remains unresolved for a long time. I would request you to grant them annual increment on percentage basis as is being enjoyed by the departmental employees.