

(vi) Demand to persuade government of Nepal to restore status quo ante in the matter of tax on the vehicles crossing Indo-Nepal Border.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): A very large portion of North Bihar has common border with Nepal. Besides, there are quite a few places in North Bihar which can be reached only after crossing the territory of Nepal. Similarly, there are a number of places in Nepal which can be reached only after crossing the border of Bihar. For all practical purposes these regions look alike. Customs, traditions, language and the way of life are the same.

For hundreds of years people of North Bihar and Nepal were crossing the borders several times a day without any hinderance. A few years ago, the Government of Nepal levied a tax of Rs. 5/- per motor driven vehicle for a period of 24 hours for those which crossed the border of Nepal. On the other hand, the Government of India took a liberal view of the matter and did not levy any tax on any vehicle crossing the Indian border. There was no restriction of duration on their stay in India.

Recently, the Government of Nepal has increased this tax fifteen times all of a sudden. Now even if an individual crosses the Nepal border on motor cycle or scooter to travel from one place in North Bihar to another, he has to pay Rs. 75 for the fraction of a day.

The tax on cars, jeeps and trucks is all the more exorbitant. On the other hand, even now the Government of India does not levy any tax on the Nepalese vehicles crossing Indian border.

The above increase in the tax rate has caused great inconvenience to the people of North Bihar living on Indo-Nepal border.

It is, therefore, requested that in view of the urgency of the matter, the Government of India should take up this issue with the Government of Nepal immediately and ensure that *status quo ante* is restored.

(vii) Agitation by telecommunication technicians for revised pay scales

SHRIMANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): The telecommunication technicians are agitating for a better pay scale considering their qualification, training and nature of work. The minimum entry qualification of Technicians is 3 year Diploma in Engineering followed by One year Departmental Training. They are required to instal, test and maintain all the sophisticated telecom equipments. The IVth Central Pay Commission placed this technical cadre at par with Matriculate Cadres of the Department. When other Central Departments like CPWD, AIR, Railways and even the Telecommunication Research Centre under the Ministry of Communication's JE Civil Wing etc. have been given the scale of Rs. 1400-2300 without any training, the Telecom Technicians have been given scale of Rs. 975-1660. The Telecom Technicians would have got higher pay scale than Rs. 1400-2300, had the Department restructured this cadre as per the recommendation of Sarin Committee of 1981 or the report of Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore of 1984.

The technicians started agitation against this disparity by performing two hours extra work for 15 days during 1981. When all efforts failed, Technicians started indefinite "Tool Down" from 15th February, 1988. The telecommunication system in the country is paralysed. Thirty thousand Technicians/Technical Supervisors are taking part in this agitation to achieve their demands. The former Communications Minister had assured on the floor of the House on 7th November, 1986 that the revised scale will be implemented from 1.1.1986.