

any reason why the Civilian workmen performing the same work should be debarred or restrained from forming trade unions.

There are about six hundred workmen under this organisation at Campbell Bay (Great Nicobar), all on daily rates fixed by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration under the Minimum Wages Act. Though most of them have rendered seven to eight years of service, an artificial break is given after every three months to deprive them of all the leave benefits, etc., for continuous service. The workers know, they are practically on continuous work, but the break is done in the records by the authorities without the knowledge of the workmen. There are Herd workers and other supervisory staff on paltry wages without any service security.

These workmen are not bound by any Army Act and entitled to any benefits enjoyed by the Defence personnel.

Therefore, I demand that all Civilian employees working under the militarised construction and other departments should be allowed to form their own trade unions without any restriction.

(iii) CONVERSION OF THE NAGERCOIL TELEPHONE EXCHANGE INTO AN AUTOMATIC EXCHANGE

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil): Nagercoil (Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu) telephone exchange has to be converted into an automatic exchange and all the other telephone exchanges in the District to be made to merge and amalgamate into the Nagercoil exchange to function as a single exchange so as to enable all the subscribers in the District, who are all residing within a very close distance, to get the benefit of making local calls through it and to avail the benefit of STD and other telephone facilities at the earliest opportunity. Kanyakumari District is very small in size and extent and its

length itself from Cape Camorin to the Kerala border Kaliackavilai is only 34 miles. The density of population and also the percentage of literacy in the District are very high. Nagercoil which is the District Quarter is almost at the centre of it. Now the existing disproportionately large number of telephone exchanges here are scattered, fragmented and irregular. The subscribers have to make trunk calls even to nearby places. To remove these difficulties, Government may be pleased to take early steps for the conversion of Nagercoil exchange into an automatic one and all the other exchanges in the District be amalgamated and linked into a single Nagercoil telephone exchange.

(iv) HARDSHIPS CAUSED TO THE PASSENGERS DUE TO TRAINS CARRYING KISANS FOR THE KISAN RALLY IN DELHI

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): The Kishan Rally organised by the Ruling Party in Delhi on 16-2-1981 has caused grave hardship to passengers including delegates to conferences with proper advanced reservations on trains.

The trains coming from Bombay and other places carrying delegates to the National Conference of the Janata Party at Sarnath were detained and delayed due to trains carrying Kisans attending the Ruling Party's rally at New Delhi and as a result the delegates could not reach the Conference in time.

On their return journey from Sarnath Conference of the Janata Party, the delegates including Members of Parliament coming to Delhi to attend the Budget Session were not being allowed and some of the MPs had to force their entry into the train despite advance reservations and travel standing.

This interference with the movement of the passengers is highly objectionable and the government should make a statement in this regard.