

I can understand Hindi being used on forms by States where the regional language is Hindi but a department like P & T which is a Central Government undertaking should not use Hindi exclusively. This is a great handicap for people from non-Hindi speaking States as they are not able to understand the contents in the printed forms. I, therefore, request you to direct the Prime Minister to ask the Minister of Communications and also Ministers of other departments not to issue forms printed only in Hindi.

(IV) FAST UNTO DEATH BY OFFICE BEARERS OF ALL INDIA POSTAL EMPLOYEES UNION, AHMEDABAD DIVISION

SHRI AHSAN JAFRI (Ahmedabad)
 Sir under rule 377 I wish to draw the attention of the government to the following matter of urgent public importance

15 office bearers of All India Postal Employees Union (Postman Class IV & EDA) Ahmedabad Division have gone on fast unto death from 10-4-78 in support of their demand 'One Postman—One Delivery'

It is quite painful to note that the Postal Department is actually exploiting the postmen in the name of efficiency throughout the country. Postmen are required to work more by the officers disregarding the rules made for the duties of Postman.

The beats assigned to the postmen in the city of Ahmedabad are normally of 20 Kms. It takes nearly 325 hours for one delivery. All the postmen are required for two deliveries a day. The postman has to arrange the mail at the office which takes nearly one and a half hours, i.e. 3 hours for two deliveries. This amounts to taking work for nearly 10 hours.

This is gross injustice practised by the Postal Department. Repeated demands were made by the Union since the last many years but nothing has been done so far.

Postmen resorted to 'work to rule' in support of their just demands. Ahmedabad from 3-1-1978.

PMG, Gujarat intervened on 10-3-1978 and promised that he would introduce the rule 'One Postman—One delivery' in the Ahmedabad Division. The agitation was withdrawn.

After this, the postmen were served with show cause notices. This kind of unjustified attitude of the officers of the Department has compelled the postmen to go on fast unto death.

The situation in the postal department in Gujarat in general and at Ahmedabad in particular is becoming worst. If any unfortunate event will take place the situation may go out of the control of the postal authorities.

I draw the attention of the Government with great concern and hope that Government will interfere immediately to solve the problem of the postmen and will ask the department to take work from the postmen according to rule.

1316 hrs.

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1978-79—
 Contd.**

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE—contd.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER The House will now resume further discussion and voting on Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare and the Department of Culture. Shrimati P. Chavan was on her legs.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad) How many hours were allotted and how much time remains?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER 2 more hours are there out of which the minister will take at least 45 minutes to 1 hour. So, 1 hour is left for the discussion. The minister will be called at about 2.30.