

MR. SPEAKER : It will be conveyed to him.

12.20 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT ETC. OF THE KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION AND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE I. S I, FOR 1969-70

जीवोपेक्षक विकास मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद) । में सभा पटल पर निम्नलिखित पत्र रखता हूँ :

(1) (एक) खादी तथा ग्रामोद्योग आयोग अधिनियम, 1956 की धारा 24 की उप धारा (3) के अन्तर्गत खादी तथा ग्रामोद्योग आयोग, बम्बई के वर्ष 1969-70 के वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन की एक प्रति तथा एक सांख्यिकीय विवरण [Placed in Library. See No. LT-546/71]

(दो) उपर्युक्त दस्तावेजों के अंग्रेजी संस्करण के साथ हिन्दी संस्करण सभा-पटल पर न रखे जा सकने के कारण स्पष्ट करने वाला एक विवरण (हिन्दी तथा अंग्रेजी संस्करण) । [Placed in Library. See No. LT-547/71.]

(2) भारतीय मानक संस्था के वर्ष 1969-70 के वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन (हिन्दी तथा अंग्रेजी संस्करण) की एक प्रति । [Placed in Library. See No. 553/71.]

2.21 hrs.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEES—1970-71  
(A REVIEW)

SECRETARY : Sir, I lay on the Table a copy of the "Financial Committees, 1970-71 (A Review)".

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha :—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 25th June, 1971 agreed without any amendment to the maintenance of Internal Security Bill, 1971, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th June, 1971."

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS\*, 1971-72—

*Contd.*

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 90 to 94 144 and 145 relating to the Ministry of Communications for which 4 hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members present in the House who are desirous of moving their cut motions may send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move.

Shri Rattanlal Brahman. This is very interesting. He wants to speak in Nepali. So far as our own languages are concerned, we are allowing them. Now, I put it to the House whether he should be allowed to speak in Nepali. I am not going to take up the responsibility for it. Tomorrow some member may want to speak in French or in Spanish.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : A Bill was moved in this House by Dr. Maitreyi Bose that Nepali should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. That Bill was rejected. Though she was a Bengali, she was elected from Darjeeling. Now, Shri Rattanlal Brahman has been elected from Darjeeling. He can speak only in Nepali. The question is whether an Indian citizen elected from Darjeeling, knowing only Nepali, should be allowed to speak in that language or not in this House.

\*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Originally we had two languages. Of course an exception was made in the case of a few South Indian languages. Now we are going beyond our own languages, the languages mentioned in our Constitution. I leave it to the House. Since no one understands it, it is much better to give us a written text which we will get translated.

**SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam) :**  
Article 120 (1) of the Constitution says :

"Notwithstanding anything in Part XVII, but subject to the provisions of article 348, business in Parliament shall be transacted in Hindi or in English :

provided that the Chairman of the Council of States or Speaker of the House of the People, or person acting as such, as the case may be, may permit any member who cannot adequately express himself in Hindi or in English to address the House in his mother tongue."

Here there is no reference to one of the languages in the Eighth Schedule. So, the Speaker can allow it.

**SHRI SANT BUX SINGH (Fatehpur) :**  
There should be no difficulty in allowing a member to speak in his mother tongue. But a problem would arise in this way. If you allow a person to speak in Nepali today there may be people from Goa who may want to speak in Portuguese or people from Pondicherry who claim that French is their mother tongue. Then, there would be no limit to it. So, I would request the hon. Member not to insist on speaking in Nepali.

**SHRI SEZHIYAN :** The position is slightly different. A member can be allowed to speak in his mother tongue provided he gives a translation. Only simultaneous translation may not be provided. A member can express himself in his mother tongue if the Speaker allows it. The translation provided by him would be incorporated in the proceedings.

**SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta-North East) :** Sir, if you will permit me, I would like to say that perhaps a rigid and legalistic stand is not necessary because in West Bengal Nepali language is already recognised and in this Parliament earlier, as Shri Banerjee told you, there has been a

movement to see that Nepalese is included in the Eighth Schedule. Therefore, particularly in view of the strained relations existing today between India and Nepal. I think we better not stand on technicalities and you can extend this right to the member.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) :** Sir, just now an hon. Member raised the point that a person from Goa may claim to speak in Portuguese and a person from Pondicherry in French. That objection does not stand because a sizable number of the electorate in West Bengal speak Nepalese language. Similarly, if a sizable number of the electorate in Pondicherry speak French or a sizable number of the electorate in Goa speak Portuguese we will provide them also this facility of speaking in that language.

**SHRI R. V. BADE (Khargone) :** Since the translation has been provided, there should be no objection.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Originally, the proceedings could be conducted only in English or Hindi. Then it was relaxed a bit in the case of certain languages of our own States, three or four of them. Now, it is not a question of prestige, or putting an hon. Member into difficulties or taking into account our relations with a neighbouring country. The question is whether we are prepared to make such exceptions in future or this is going to be one single solitary case, to be treated as an exception.

**SHRI SEZHIYAN :** This is not an exception. Even previously, when the floor language was only Hindi or English, members from Tamilnadu used to speak in Tamil, after giving an advanced copy of the speech. Only simultaneous translation may not be there.

**MR. SPEAKER :** The only exception we have made in the case of a foreign language was English, and that too will be discontinued after some time.

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore) :** Nepalese is not a foreign language. So, if you not allow people to speak in Nepalese it will harm our national interest.

**MR. SPEAKER :** In our universities we allow so many languages to be taught, not only Nepalese but also Tibetan and Chinese.



[Mr. Speaker]

The question is what languages we should allow to be used in the House. Suppose tomorrow somebody wants to speak in Chinese.

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA :** Do not mix up things. In West Bengal we have a large number of people of Nepali origin who speak in Nepalese. They have love for their language. How can you prevent them from speaking in their mother tongue ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** It is not a question of a controversy. Here is a case where we are making an exception in the case of a language which is outside the Constitution. Should we treat it as an exception, not to be treated as a precedent ? I leave it to the House.

**SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA (Jammu) :** It should be an exception,

**MR. SPEAKER :** Yes, it will be an exception.

श्री श्री. श्री. मोर्य (हापुड़) . अध्यक्ष सहोदय, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। आप किसी माननीय सदस्य को किसी भाषा में बोलने की इजाजत दें या न दें, यह आपका अधिकार है। लेकिन इस सदन में जो कार्यवाही हो रही है, इस सदन का एक सदस्य होने के नाते मुझे उसका ज्ञान होना चाहिए। मुझे मालूम होना चाहिए कि माननीय सदस्य क्या कह रहे हैं।

**अध्यक्ष सहोदय :** इसकी सिमलटेनियस ट्रांसलेशन होगी।

**श्री इन्द्रजीत मल्होत्रा :** इसका ट्रांसलेशन नहीं मिलेगा, क्योंकि यह एक रेकग्नाइज्ड लैंग्वेज नहीं है।

**अध्यक्ष सहोदय :** इस हाउस में कई दफा ऐसी बातें कही जाती हैं, जिनके नतीजे बहुत बुरे होते हैं। मैंने एक्सप्रेसन के तौर पर इजाजत दी है।

**श्री इन्द्रजीत मल्होत्रा :** वह एक्सप्रेसन इस हाउस का कल बन जायेगा। इस लिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप एक्सप्रेसन न कीजिए।

#### DEMAND No. 90—MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

**MR. SPEAKER :** Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,13,000 including the sums already voted 'on account' for the relevant services be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1972, in respect of 'Ministry of Communications'."

#### DEMAND No. 94—OTHER REVENUE EXPENDITURE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

**MR. SPEAKER :** Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,47,000 including the sums already voted 'on account' for the relevant services be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1972, in respect of 'Other Revenue Expenditure of the Ministry of Communications'."

#### DEMAND No. 145—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

**MR. SPEAKER :** Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,19,80,000 including the sums already voted 'on account' for the relevant services be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1972, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Communications'."

#### DEMAND No. 91—OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

**MR. SPEAKER :** Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,14,23,000 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, 1972, in respect of 'Overseas Communications Service'."

**DEMAND NO. 92—POSTS AND TELE-  
GRAPHS (WORKING EXPENSES)**

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,86,90,41,000 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, 1972, in respect of Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses)".

**DEMAND NO. 93—POSTS AND TELE-  
GRAPHS—DIVIDEND TO GENERAL  
REVENUES, APPROPRIATION TO  
RESERVE FUND, AND REPAY-  
MENT OF LOANS FROM  
GENERAL REVENUES**

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,42,63,000 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, 1972, in respect of Posts and Telegraphs—Dividend to General Revenues, Appropriation to Reserve Fund and Repayments of Loans from General Revenues".

**DEMAND NO. 144—CAPITAL OUT-  
LAY ON POSTS AND TEL-  
LIGRAPHS (NOT MET FROM  
REVENUE)**

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 69,70,00,000 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, 1972, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)'."

**\*\*SHRI RATTANLAL BRAHMAN** (Darjeeling) : Sir, the Minister for Communications is trying to paint a rosy picture to cover the anti-people, anti-labour policies of his Congress Government. His Government is talking of efficiency in its Depart-

ments, fair deal to its employees and workers etc. but in practice it is pursuing out and out anti-people policies and anti-labour policies.

Work in the Posts and Telegraphs Department has increased manifold in recent times. What about the staff strength? Was it increased in proportion to the increased volume of work? No. Has the Government increased the facilities to its employees? No. Has the Government increased facilities to the public in recent years? Not much. Then what is there to be proud. I could not find any reason for his proudness.

The hon. Minister, Shri Bahuguna had a surprise check at the Gole Post Office. He found a large number of letters were lying there. Immediately he called the Press people, and told them that he is going to take strong action against those responsible. And all papers had given this news under big headings and praised Shri Bahuguna. Ministers and officials if they are having periodical and surprise check-ups in their respective departments it is good. But instead of understanding the problems being faced by the employees and workers, if the Ministers and officials try to put the blame on the ordinary employees and workers for the administration's and the Government's failure, then these check-ups and surprise visits will be a mockery. If my information is correct, the day when Mr. Bahuguna had a surprise check-up in the Gole Post Office, the Post Office people received 570 bags of post against the average 360 bags of post. Not only that, 142 man hours less on that day. This is not the fault of the postal employees. When there is an increased volume of work, it is the Department's duty to see that additional staff is provided to clear the excess post. But here the Department had not taken any action in this regard. On the contrary, the hon. Minister, Shri Bahuguna tried to get publicity at the expense of the poor employees.

The Government is telling that it is giving efficient service. What efficient service? In the modern world when the various countries are increasing their communication services to its people, in our country we are going backward. The Government has stopped

\*\* The original speech was delivered in Nepali.

[Sri. Rattanlal Brahman]

the evening post delivery, that is the last post in the day. It has abolished the fixing of delivery date stamps on the letters in the name of streamlining the department; it is not going to give the copy of a phonogram to its customers; it is not going to deliver the telegrams in the nights unless the person who is sending the telegram spends another additional 20 paise for the words 'night delivery'. Are all these things created to help the people or to show the department's efficiency? Certainly not. The Ministers and officials need not bother about their communications. They can use wireless, telex and other communication services which are at their disposal. But when the common people go to the post office to send telegrams to their relatives or friends about some urgent matters, they have to pay 20 paise more. The hon. Minister can argue that the increase of 20 paise is for telegrams which will be delivered in the night time only. But I want to ask the hon. Minister one question. Even if I am sending a telegram in the morning, what is the guarantee that it will reach before night? Now-a-days ordinary, even urgent telegrams, and that too to nearby places, are being delivered after 24 hours. If you ask the reason, the department's reply is that some lines were 'kharab'. So, if you want that the telegram which you are sending even in the morning should reach at least in the night, you have to pay 20 paise more. This is a big exploitation on the ordinary people. Now can the Minister claim efficient and cheap service? Is the stopping of evening delivery a progressive step? Then abolition of fixing delivery-date stamps, is it really to streamline the department? Certainly not. It is only with a view to cheat the people from knowing the fact that the P & T employees in less numbers are doing more work. If not, then what else?

In the recent labour meeting, the Government spokesman told that the multiplicity of the Unions has not only weakened the Trade Union movement but has also affected the industrial relations. But experience shows that there is lack of sincerity on the part of the Government behind such approach. In the case of P&T Department, it is the administration which has directly patronised, encouraged and ultimately recognised rival Federation immediately after the token strike of the 19th September, 1968 while recognition of

the established Federation, the National Federation of the Posts and Telegraphs Employees, was withdrawn. There was an agreement between the P & T Administration and the recognised Union in the background of Realignment Scheme that the Government will not grant recognition to any rival Unions/Federations in the P & T services. But the Government is patronising the formation of such rival Unions with the sole object of weakening the P & T Trade Union movement. What else can be a better example than this about the hypocrisy of the Government? The Government is telling that it wants to stabilise the relations between the employers and workers in the industries. But in reality, it is pursuing out and out anti-labour policies.

For Extra Departmental employees, the quantum of interim relief of Rs. 8 and Rs. 4 was granted by the Government on the recommendation of the Central Pay Commission. It is grossly inadequate. They should be given at least Rs. 15 as interim relief. The Extra Departmental employees should be paid pay and allowances at par with the Departmental employees, that is the quantum may be fixed in accordance with the house of work performed. Uniforms, pension, gratuity etc should be provided to them.

In the Posts and Telegraphs Department, the volume of work has increased several times, but the Department instead of recruiting more persons to meet the increasing volume of work, imposed a ban on creation of posts. This ban on creating posts should be removed as this imposes extra workload on the existing staff. In the telephone billing work, computers are being introduced to kill the jobs of thousands of employees. On one side the volume of work has increased and on the other this over-work is being imposed on the workers and the employees. This is the wonderful labour policy of the Government.

The Government is trying to hide its anti-labour policies by its tall talk of so called trade union rights to its employees. But it is conducting criminal proceedings against one thousand employees, who had participated in the 1968 Central Government to employees peaceful strike. It is conducting departmental proceedings against 800 employees for the same reasons. Promotions, confirmations, issue of quasi-permanency certificates etc. have been held up in thousands of cases. Six employees

are still out of service. Is this the way to stabilise the relations with the employees? so, I request the Government to withdraw these criminal and departmental proceedings and re-instate all these victimised in the Department.

Sir, I think, a gross injustice has been made to West Bengal by shifting the international tele-communication channels operating between Calcutta and Australia, Hong Kong and Japan from Calcutta to Bombay. It is surprising that the reason for shifting has never been made known to the people of the country, particularly of West Bengal. It is not a fact that an expert Committee on the subject preferred Calcutta to be the ideal place for the unit to that of Bombay. Had not the employees of the unit sent a Memorandum to the Home Minister in this regard?

Sir, I would also like to call the attention of the Minister through you to the injustice done towards the P. and T workers in my local region, e.g. Darjeeling and Sikkim. The employees have been deprived of the hill allowance which even the British had allowed them. They are also faced with extreme difficulties regarding living quarters which are non-existent in many of the hill areas.

SHRI SANJEEVI RAO (Kakinada) : Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Communications. The ministry has done commendable work and deserves the whole-hearted support of the House. I want the ministry to remember that communication is the lifeline of progress and prosperity, particularly so in a developing country. The minister should carefully study the various problems facing the ministry and I would like to put forward some useful suggestions for his consideration.

In the rural areas, each village should have a modern post office with a savings bank, telegram and telephone facilities. There is a great demand for telephones from all parts of the country and due to the shortage of telephones and other equipment, a great problem has been created. It can be partially solved by increasing the number of public call offices. I know what good these public call offices have done, particularly to the common man, wherever they have been installed. I learn that there are 11830 public call offices which is very meagre considering the vastness of the country. All railway

stations, bus stops and places of importance should be provided with coin box telephones. It is not only a public utility service, but a commercial service, bringing a lot of revenue to the department. Therefore, telephones should be expended as much as possible.

We cannot forget that the communications demand is growing at the rate of 15 to 20 per cent every year. For increasing the number of telephones. We need items like exchanges, equipment, instruments and cables. To manufacture these items we need a considerable amount of foreign exchange. I understand that we are importing Rs. 5 to 10 crores worth of equipment, Rs. 10 to 15 crores worth of cables and Rs. 5 crores worth of exchanges. In addition, we are importing Rs. 5 crores worth of components and raw materials required for the factories existing in the country.

I learn that the Co-axial projects in the country are drastically affected due to the acute shortage of telephone cables. There is one unit, the Hindustan Cables Ltd. in Roopnainpur which is producing telephone cables. But unfortunately it is manufacturing only 20-30 per cent of the rated capacity. I want to know from the hon. Minister what he is going to do with this unfortunate situation, particularly, when the country is in acute shortage of this particular kind of cables.

The story is not different in the case of the second factory which they propose to establish in Hyderabad. The foundation-stone was laid nearly 7 years back by the then Industries Minister. It is making a very slow progress. God only knows when it will start producing cables. In this connection, I must stress that all efforts should be so streamlined so that all restrictions must be removed in order that the second unit should go into production as quickly as possible.

Certain countries have taken to aluminium telecommunication cables to conserve copper. In our country, we have sufficient aluminium available. So, I want that the Research Wing of the Ministry of Communications should conduct tests extensively to use aluminium cables for communication purposes.

Also, there have been methods for utilizing underground installations by adopting digital

[Shri Sanjeevi Rao]

multiplex techniques. By using this method, we not only prevent the use of copper cables but also we will save the expenditure involved in laying the cables and digging the roads.

I want to congratulate the hon. Minister for his fore-sight in taking advantage of the advanced space technology of global commercial communications satellite system. We are happy that the satellite ground station at Arvi has been completed and it has gone into operation to provide the most modern telecommunication system. To start with, the operation via satellite would be with 10 countries using 38 channels. I very much wish that more funds are allotted not only for additional channels at Arvi satellite ground station but also the work should be stepped up to complete the work for the second satellite station at New Delhi. This new satellite medium not only provides overseas communications service with circuits of high grade reliability and quality but also it is possible to provide international T. V. relays for national television broadcasts. I suggest that the ministry of Communications in consultation with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting should draw a dynamic, integrated and optimised long-term national plan for construction of satellite stations at various places in the country for the benefit of international communications as well as national television broadcasts.

Lastly, I come to a subject which is of paramount importance for the country.

The Indian Telephone Industries have entered into collaboration with Bell Telephone Manufacturing Company of Belgium five years ago to manufacture cross-bar system. The Indian Telephone Industries entered into an agreement on the assumption that the lines will be cheaper by this cross-bar system compared to the strowger system. According to the agreement, the Indian Telephone Industries are supposed to manufacture 100,000 lines per year after three years and 200,000 lines after five years. But, unfortunately, the position is that they are producing only 50,000 lines per year. In addition to this terrible set-back, the expenditure involved per line on cross-bar system is Rs. 1600 per line compared to Rs. 700 per line on the strowger system. I want that the Minister should go deep into this matter to salvage ourselves from this muddle.

Why I am bringing this cross-bar system is that we are going to repeat the same mistake again very shortly. I learn that we are going to purchase sophisticated vital microwave system with the Canadian aid. I also understand that we are going to finalise giving a letter of intent very shortly. I want you to systematically study all the technical aspects such as trouble-free performance in the parent company, maintenance problem, recurring foreign exchange, technology of state of art, noise and other transmission considerations which are normally traded off to cut costs.

Lastly, I want to appeal to you to systematically and methodically consider the points that I have raised so that the cross-bar debacle is not repeated once again.

Thank you.

SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI (Lakhimpur) : I rise to support the Demands of the Ministry of Communications. The name itself suggests that it is a public utility service and I am happy to note that this Ministry is in charge of a dynamic Minister and I hope he will bring dynamism to this Department and cater to the needs of the public in a better way.

While visiting the different post offices in connection with my work, I notice that the facilities provided to the offices are not adequate. Generally, these offices are understaffed, no sufficient working space is there and even there is no sufficient furniture. This Department has been practising economy. But, as it is said, economy should not be allowed to hamper the efficiency of working.

There is a telephone famine in the country and the Minister is perhaps aware that the number of applicants for telephone connections will amount to half a million, if not more. There should be more factories for producing telephones and other ancillaries for providing telephones to be subscribers. I hope the minister will take up the matter in all seriousness and I urge that one more public sector plant for producing these things will be set up in the current year.

In this connection, I come to my State of Assam. The telephone system is not satisfactory in that region. Particularly, in the eastern region, the communication system is very poor.



On October 2nd last I had the privilege to accompany the Prime Minister to Assam. As the Prime Minister could not land in Gauhati due to bad weather she had to come back to Bagdogra. After waiting for a couple of hours she was not in a position to contact Gauhati. She expressed her surprise how communication system is very poor in that eastern part of our country. I invite the attention of the Minister to this aspect. Telephone connection and trunk call cannot be made from the Eastern part of Assam to Calcutta or Gauhati. If one gets a connection he is to be considered as a fortunate person, particularly from the exchanges which are lying in the interior parts of Assam.

In this respect I would refer to particular places like Dhemaji exchange in Lakhimpur district and Sonari exchange in Sibsagar district. These two exchanges are in my constituency. During election time I was never able to contact other parts from those exchanges even after trying for 4 or 5 days together continuously. I hope the Minister will take note of these and try to improve this position so that we can get trunk call from those exchanges.

In Upper Assam region the system of carrying mail is not satisfactory. There was in Northern part of upper Assam no railway connection previously and mail was carried by runners. Even after the introduction of railway this system is still there. To provide quick transport I would suggest that railway should be utilised for carrying mail from one place to another place.

Dhekuakhana is one other place where the department proposed to establish a telegraph office. This is in Lakhimpur district. They decided to establish an office 2 years back. I saw the PMG of that circle and he assured me in September last that it would be opened. But, uptill now nothing has been done. This sort of action indicates inefficiency and indifference of the department and brings discredit to the Government. People are criticising the department and the working of the Government. This was assured 2 years back but nothing has been done. Some of the telegraph posts are now lying on the ground. I do not know what the reason for the delay is. I request the Minister to look into the matter.

Regarding employment, I wish to say this. This department provides employment to a number of youths. I have one bitter experience. Whenever a post is advertised, if a person goes to the nearest post office—I do not speak about branch office, I am speaking about the sub-offices and offices in the sub-divisional and district head quarters—nobody can get a proper prescribed form to apply for the post concerned. I have my personal experience. In the last meeting of the Telephone Advisory Committee in Gauhati, I raised this point. I believe that it has been done deliberately to deprive certain persons from applying for the posts. I would request that such things should never happen. Whenever a post is advertised the form must be made available and the candidate should get such form.

13 hrs.

In this connection, I would like to mention another point. The Postal Department uses to bring out commemorative stamps. Since the inception of this Department, perhaps only one commemorative stamp was brought out about a person of Assam. There is a demand made by the Assam Sahitya Sabha, the Government of Assam and the Members from Assam for bringing out a commemorative stamp in 1972 on the birth centenary celebration of a prominent literature Shri P N Gohain Barua of Assam. We had made a formal request in this regard, but the Philatelic Committee has turned down the proposal. I do not know what the guiding principle is and what logic is there under which this committee is working. I would suggest that this committee should not neglect a certain portion of the country. The people living in a certain area should not be allowed to feel that they are neglected or ignored. The action of the philatelic committee, is detrimental to the interests of the people. I would demand that the hon. Minister should make an inquiry into the working of this committee. This committee has neglected the demand of the entire people of Assam. It is a unanimous demand made by all the Members of Parliament from that region, the Government of Assam and the literary associations of Assam, but the committee has not paid any heed to this request. I do not know why. If they go on working like this, then we shall be compelled to feel that they are not prepared to treat the people of Assam on a par with the people in the other parts of the country.



[Shri Vishwanarayana Shastri]

I feel very strongly on this point and urge the hon. Minister to look into this matter.

With these words, I support the Demands of the Ministry and request the hon. Minister through you to see that the communication system in respect of postal and telephone services is improved in the eastern region, and particularly in Assam.

MR. SPEAKER : The debate on these demands is to continue for 4 hours. So, it will last up to about 3.30 p.m., I think. What time would the hon. Minister like to take ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : About 40 minutes, if that much time is available, or even less, say half an hour.

MR. SPEAKER : We started this debate at about 12.30 p.m. we shall go on up to 3.30 p.m.

DR. RANEN SEN (Barasat) : The hon. Minister may speak at 4.30 p.m., so that the debate can continue for four hours.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. We want to make up for the time lost on the other Demands. Since there are not many names in the list before me, I suggest that the hon. Minister may be ready to reply even at 3.30 p.m. Even if he be called at 3 p.m. he should be ready.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : Even if you ask me to speak right now, I would very much welcome it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I am extremely happy that my hon. friend and one of my trade union colleagues Shri H. N. Bahuguna is today the Minister of Communications, and I am sure that the interests of the employees will be properly protected by the veteran trade union leader Shri H. N. Bahuguna.

I was equally happy to know that he had already explained to the members of the board his intentions and how he was going to streamline the administration and root out corruption in this particular Department. Recently, all of us were very happy to find that he like the

late Shri Rafi Ahmed Kidwai visited the Gole Dakkhana in New Delhi *in cognito* and found about 30,000 to 40,000 packets and letters pending for delivery. That has improved the efficiency and there is fear in the minds of not only of the employees but officers also that the Minister may visit any post or telegraph office

We should also try to unearth the corruption which is going on in the matter of booking trunk calls and booking calls from somebody's telephone without his knowledge. We find the bill goes to Rs. 300 or 400. We do not know about the calls booked at our cost. These are supposed to be the ghost calls booked on my telephone by somebody. I hope some remedy will be found to check it, to minimise it and eliminate it ultimately,

Sir, certain new schemes have been implemented in P and T Deptt. and I am happy that these schemes are meeting with success if not in full but in part. Sir, there are less number of postal facilities in the rural areas. Then we want that there should be more means of communications in our rural areas ; post office in each village is a must. I know, with more than 5½ lakhs of villages in the country, it is a Herculean task to have post offices everywhere. But what is happening everywhere ? Post offices are being run by extra-departmental employees. There are two aspects of it. The extra-departmental employees are not paid the same pay and allowances as the other Government employees or the Posts and Telegraphs employees. A Committee was formed at the time of late Dr. Subbarayan called E. D. Committee. I do not know whether the recommendations of the E. D. Committee were fully implemented. So, in these villages, the extra-departmental employees—a teacher or somebody in the Panchayat—opens the post office at his convenience. We have received numerous complaints that the money order which was sent from the city by an employee to his parents or his wife or to another member of his family is not received by them unless some time lapses. Sir, these reports should be looked into and remedial measures to eliminate them completely, should be taken. My suggestion is that wherever post offices are run by any E. D. employee those should be converted into full-fledged post offices run by the regular employees and not by the E. D. employees. An E. D. employee who has worked for more than four or five years should be

made a regular employee. The country is not going to lose anything and efficiency will be gained in this way. Rural population is going to be benefited tremendously by that.

There is a direct dial system in our country and I have heard that there is a dial system from Calcutta to Delhi and from Bombay to Delhi. These were opened recently. Mr. Dhawan, Governor of West Bengal, dialled Mr. Bahuguna. Sir, I do not know whether it is also from Delhi to Calcutta. I asked so many times in this regard. I was told, "We do not know". There may be dialing system but it is not open so far as Delhi is concerned. I would like to know whether this dial system is really working. But this direct dial system is good for the Minister who has not to pay anything from his pocket. It has become a curse for us. Anybody who dials the number talks for even 30 minutes because there is no limit. First he talks to his wife then to his children and then to his voters.

Naturally, I have to wait patiently. Ultimately, this is reflected on my salary. I am not practically getting my salary for six months because I am told I have to pay Rs. 3,000. So there should be some limit of three minutes and then there should be some alarm.

MR. SPEAKER : Must be a youngster speaking.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I have only one child. But other people speak. There should be some limit to this. I know the dial system is very good. But it should be ensured that it is not misused by some people.

About the P. and T. Board and representation of employees on it, if there could be employees' representatives on the Bank boards and in the HSL Board, as Shri Mohan Kumaramangalam has said, I do not know why the P and T employees cannot find representation on the P and T Board. I would request the hon. member to realise the importance of this. There are efficient members in our well-known Federation who can possibly match equally with the members of the P and T Board. They are all technical persons who know their job well. In view of the cordial relations subsisting between the Minister and the National Federation of Posts and Telegraph Employees, this can be done. I am waiting for the day

when a representative of the employees is included in the Board.

I do not want to say much about the Board and its functioning. The defects are known to the Minister; he also knows what are the remedies. I want him to give a full trial to it. Let him go on with the work of improving the Board's functioning.

Coming to the ITI, our country is proud of the fact that we are now manufacturing all our telephones. I am sure more can be done. The employees there have certain demands. I do not know whether those demands have been conceded. But they have been able to give of their best in the larger interests of the country.

Coming to the issue of commemoration stamps, I do not know why we have not yet thought of issuing a commemoration stamp in honour of Bangla Desh. Even yesterday we were engaged in a discussion of this matter when we all supported Bangla Desh. We can issue a commemoration stamp either in honour of Mujibur Rehman, not because he is the leader of the Awami League but because both our national anthem and their national anthem were composed by Rabindranath Tagore, or in honour of the Bangla Desh martyrs. This will give a boost to their morale. Or we may issue a stamp in memory of those who have shed their last drop of blood in defence of Bangla Desh against the tyranny of Yahya Khan. This will be welcomed both nationally and internationally. Nobody is going to take us to task for that. We have got every right to issue such a stamp. Did we not issue a stamp in honour of Lenin, Martin Luther King and others. So naturally we can have a stamp in honour of Mujibur Rehman. It is high time we gave a boost to the people of Bangla Desh in this manner. The details can be worked out. But it is necessary to do this at this stage.

A request has been made by the Governor of UP and a Committee was formed to celebrate the centenary of the late lamented Atul Prasad Sen.....

MR. SPEAKER : His party has only 10 minutes.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : You said there were few speakers.

MR. SPEAKER : But you should confine yourself to your share. They are responsible for their own share. I said we wanted to save time.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : The hon. Minister comes from U.P., and I am sure he knows the wonderful poems written by the late Atul Prasad Sen. He was in Lucknow, and everybody in U.P. knew him. He was a person whose song, along with Tagore's song, has created this stir in Bangla Desh. What was the song ? It was : "आभोरी बांगला भाषा मोदिर गौरव, मोदिर बाबा ।" i.e., the wonderful Bengali language is our pride and hope. And the Mukti Fauj used to fight with this song. So, let there be no disappointment, since the Governor has recommended it. I know his hands are tied because a decision has already been taken about the stamps, but I appeal to him in all humility and in all earnestness that the people of U.P. should not be disappointed. Let there be a commemorative stamp of Atul Prasad Sen.

I was happy that there was a commemorative stamp of Ganesh Singh Vidyarthi who was an emblem of communal harmony in Kanpur. He was a true Indian in the words of Mahatma Gandhi.

Shastriji was saying that he wanted some commemorative stamp for some poet in Assam. It reminded me of a person who was a Member of this House and the other House, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma Naveen. He was a great leader, a great artist, a great poet, a revolutionary poet, who is still remembered not only in U.P., but in the whole of the North. I hope there will be a stamp either this year or next year of Pandit Balkrishna Sharma Naveen. We should remember his great poems. I hope the Minister will do it.

I then refer to the victimisation of the employees. All the employees have been taken back, but more than 1,000 cases are still pending against the P. & T employees in the country. I know he cannot withdraw the cases, but he can persuade the State Governments and the Home Ministry to do it. The disability suffered by these employees is tremendous. It affects their promotion, their increment. We have referred the matter to the Prime Minister, and Prime Minister will ultimately refer the matter to Shri Bahuguna. Naturally he will have to take a decision. So,

I request him to take a decision at the earliest opportunity, so that the disabilities suffered by these employees because of their participation in the 1968 strike are removed.

He is trying to unite both the federations, I wish him all success, but let him realise that the other federation was formed after the strike. The strike was broken with strike-breakers. I hope he will never support it. I have nothing against the other federation, but the National Federation of P and T Employees was formed after the realignment scheme which was backed by Rafi Ahmed Kidwai and implemented by Jagjivan Ram. I hope the socialist traditions will be kept in mind. There should be only one federation. If he wants to unite both the federations, I wish him success, but till that time there should be only one federation and its representative character should be accepted.

I wish all success to the Ministry and assure him of all co-operation on behalf of my group and the trade unions to which I belong. As a trade unionist I hope he will protect the interests of the employees.

PROF. S. L. SAKSENA (Maharajanji) .  
beg to move :

That the demand under the head 'Posts and Telegraphs (Workers Expenses), be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Need of opening of a branch post office in village Gujrolia Shanker Misra three miles north of Lachimpur railway station in Gorakhpur district. (1)]

That the Demand under the head 'Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Failure to provide Gorakhpur with an automatic telephone exchange. (2)]

That the demand under the head 'Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Failure to construct the Head Post Office building in Gorakhpur for which land has been acquired. (3)]

DR. LAXMINARAIN PANDEY  
(Mandsaur) : I beg to move :

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

[Utter disregard to increase the number of teleprinters in Devnagri script. (6)]

That the Demand under the head Ministry of Communications be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Failure to check mismanagement in respect of telegrams sent in Hindi language. (7)]

That the Demand under the head Ministry of Communications be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Delay in increasing the number of telephone lines at Jaora in Ratlam District of Madhya Pradesh Circle. (8)]

That the Demand under the head Ministry of Communications be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Failure to increase the capacity of the Hindustan Teleprinters, Madras. (9)]

That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Communications be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Failure to take special measures for the manufacture of telephones and accessories in order to cope with the increasing demand for telephone service. (10)]

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

[Lack of telephone facilities in many cities and big towns of Madhya Pradesh. (11)]

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

[Need to set-up new telephone industry to cope with the demand

for telephones and other accessories in the country and abroad. (12)]

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Communications be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Delay in increasing the capacity of the Indian Telephone Industry, Bangalore. (13)]

SHRI THA KIRUTTINAN (Sivaganja) :  
I beg to move :

"That the Demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide Branch Post Offices in almost all important villages in Tamil Nadu particularly in Ramnad District. (16)]

"That the Demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to provide telegraph and telephone facilities in all Post Offices in Ramnad District of Tamil Nadu. (17)]

"That the Demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Inordinate delay in sending and delivering telegrams. (18)]

"That the Demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to introduce direct dial system between Delhi and Madras. (19)]

"That the Demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to expedite the introduction of direct dial system between Madras and Madurai. (20)]

"That the Demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Shri The Kiruttinai]

[Failure to provide double line system between Madurai and in Tamil Nadu. (21)]

Dr. LAXMINARAIN PANDEY : I beg to move :

"That the Demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Delay in the opening of new post offices or increasing postal facilities in rural areas particularly in Mand-saur and in Ratlam District of Madhya Pradesh Circle. (22)]

"That the Demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Lack of suitable post office buildings at Mand-saur and Jaora in Madhya Pradesh Circle. (23)]

That the Demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Utter disregard to provide housing facilities to Post and Telegraph employees. (24)]

That the Demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Failure to make available forms in P. & T. Department. (25)]

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI (Patna) : I beg to move :

That the Demand under the head 'Ministry of Communication' be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Failure to remove the disabilities suffered by Post and Telegraph employees for taking part in September, 1968 strike. (35)]

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

[Failure to include workers representative on Post and Telegraph Board. (36)]

SHRI LAXMINARAIN PANDEY : I beg to move :

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

[Failure to open branch post-offices in several villages in Mand-saur and Ratlam districts despite public demands. (37)]

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

[Failure to increase the capacity of telephone exchange at Jaora in District Ratlam (M P) 38]

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

[Failure to construct suitable buildings for the post offices in Jaora and Mand-saur (39)]

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

[Failure to open public call offices in several big and important villages in Mand-saur and Ratlam districts for the convenience of the public (40)]

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

[Indifference towards the telegrams sent in Hindi in the telegraph offices (41)]

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

[Failure to check mismanagement in the distribution of dak in the rural areas (42)]

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

[Failure to make necessary amendments in the P & T Code so as to make it more useful (43)]

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

[Failure to arrest the decline in the efficiency of telephone services (44)]

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

[Failure to make necessary improvements and to renovate various telephone exchanges (45)]

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

[Failure to reconstitute Zonal Advisory Committees of the P. and T. Department (46)]

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

[Failure to make up the shortage of employees in the R.M.S. (47)]

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

[Failure to provide 'Holiday Homes' at some new places for the P. and T. Employees (48)]

PROF. S. L. SAKSENA : I beg to move—  
"That the demand under the head Ministry of Communications be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to provide telegraph offices in Maharajganj, Siswa, Ghughli, Nautanwa and Lachmipur and Bridgmanganj stations in the Gorakhpur District (55)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Communications be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to provide village post offices in Tehsils of Pharwada and Maharajganj at the rate of one Post Office in five miles radius (56)]

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Communications be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to provide 24 hour telephone exchanges in Anandnagar, Dhani, Bridgmanganj, Lachmipur, Nautanwa, Maharajganj, Siswa, Nichlaur, Thuntibani and Ghughli as these areas on Nepal border are of strategic importance (57)]

DR. LAXMINARAIN PANDEY : I beg to move—

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

[Failure to grant interim relief to class IV employees (58)]

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

[Failure to reinstate those employees against whom action was taken for participating in the token strike (59)]

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

[Failure to ensure timely transmission and delivery of Hindi telegrams (60)]

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

[Failure to construct suitable rest houses for the R. M. S. employees (61)]



SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: I beg to move

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

[Need to withdraw the recognition of rival unions and associations formed in P. and T. Department (62)]

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

[Need to withdraw cases filed against P and T employees in Ranchi (63)]

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

[Shortage of chairs and space in the R.M.S. office at Patna (64)]

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

[Need to construct a shed opposite R.M.S. office at Patna (65)]

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

[Mismanagement in telephone services in Patna (66)]

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

[Unsatisfactory telephone service in Patna (67)]

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

[Delay in constituting zonal P and T Consultative Committees (68)]

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

[Delay in constituting Patna Telephone Advisory Committee (69)]

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

[Need to make arrangements for sorting in Patna G.P.O. (70)]

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

[Irregularities committed by officers in Patna Telegraph Office. (71)]

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

[Need to relax the conditions for setting up post offices in rural areas. (72)]

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

[Failure to check bribery rampant in the matter of setting up of post office in rural areas. (73)]

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

[Need to reduce the pay of high officers in the Ministry of Communications. (74)]

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

[Anti labour policy of high officers. (75)]

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

[Need to increase the number of post offices in the rural areas of Bihar. (76)]

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

[Need to check the 'Divide and rule' policy of officers of P and T Department in respect of the employees. (77)]

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

[Failure to increase the number of P.C.Os. in Bihar. (78)]

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

[Need to augment the strength of employees in Madurai H.R.O. and Divisional Office. (79)]

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

[Need to open sorting office in Virudhunagar. (80)]

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

[Need to open R.M.S. office in Coimbatore Express. (81)]

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

[Need to withdraw punishments awarded to P and T employees of Gaya for their participation in the strike of the 19th September 1968. (82)]

That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Failure to include workers' representative in P and T Board. (83)]

That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Failure to deliver the telegrams in night hours by many Telegraph Office in Tamil Nadu and charging extra fees for the delivery. (84)]

That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Failure to grant adequate facilities and accommodations for the R.M.S. in Tirunelveli Junction. (85)]

That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Need to provide a shed in front of the R.M.S. Office at Madurai Junction (86)]

That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Failure to grant interim relief to class IV employees and extra departmental employees of P and T Department. (87)]

That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Failure to re-instate the victimised P and T workers for taking part in one day token strike on the 19th September, 1968. (88)]

That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Failure to appoint Messengers in many Telephone Offices at Tanjavur

SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU (Nagapattinam) : I beg to move :

[Shri M. Kathamuthu]

District to call the addressees for the inward calls. (89)]

That the Demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Need to open R.M.S. Office at Tiruvarur Junction in Tamil Nadu. (90)]

That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Failure to provide better accommodation and a shed for R.M.S. Office at Mayuram Junction. (91)]

That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Failure to concede the reasonable demands of the extra departmental employees. (92)]

That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Failure to issue commemorative Postal stamps in the name of Bharathi Dasan of Pondicherry. (93)]

That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Need to issue special postal stamps on the occasion of the 90th birth anniversary of great Tamil scholar and patriot Thiru V. Kalyanasundaram of Tamil Nadu (94)]

That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Failure to open R.M.S. Office at Virudhunagar in Tamil Nadu. (95)]

MR. SPEAKER : The Cut Motions are also before the House.

श्रीकली साहिबी स्वामी. (बाबला) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे याद है पिछले वर्ष इस अनुदान पर जिस का सम्बन्ध विश्व के प्रत्येक देश से है और अपने देश में प्रत्येक बड़े शहर के है, काद विवाद नहीं हुआ था। मैं समझती हूँ कि इस बार भारतवर्ष के प्रथम पोस्टमैन, श्री हेमवती नन्दन बहुगुणा, का यह प्रयास रहा होगा कि इस अनुदान पर बहस हो और एक अच्छे समय पर हो। मैं उनको इस के लिए बधाई देना चाहती हूँ और इस अनुदान का समर्थन करते हुए अपने कुछ सुझाव पेश करना चाहती हूँ।

जहाँ तक इस बात का सम्बन्ध है कि इस विभाग का कितना बड़ा महत्व है, यह किसी से छिपा नहीं है। आज विश्व के कोने कोने को इस विभाग ने एक लड़ी में बाँधा है और देश की बढ़ती हुई अर्थ-व्यवस्था में इस बढ़ते हुए टेक्नोलॉजिकल और साइम के युग में जब मनुष्य के पास इतना समय नहीं है कि वह कुछ देर इन्तजार कर सके, जल्दी जल्दी वह अपनी समस्याओं को हल करना चाहता है, तो टेली-कम्यूनिकेशन और कम्प्युनिकेशन एक बहुत बड़ा हाथ रखते हैं। इन 10 वर्षों के बीच में इस विभाग ने जो कार्य किया है, उस से दुनिया की आँखें खुलती हैं और जो बहुत बड़ी प्रगति ओवरसीज कम्प्युनिकेशन में, वायरलेस प्लानिंग में और टेलीफोन प्लानिंग में हुई है, इस के लिए यह पूरा विभाग बधाई का पात्र है। लेकिन अध्यक्ष महोदय, बड़ी बड़ी चीजों के सामने, बड़ी बड़ी योजनाओं के सामने छोटी छोटी चीजें खो जाती हैं, बड़े बड़े कर्मचारियों की उन्नति और पदोन्नति के सामने छोटे छोटे कर्मचारी निगलकटेड रहते हैं और उन के साथ जो कुछ भी व्यवहार होता है, उस की कोई सुनवाई का उन्हें कोई अवसर नहीं मिलता।

13.24 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*

बहुगुणा जी एक मिनिस्टर ही नहीं हैं बल्कि वे लेबर लीडर भी हैं और मैं उन से आशा करती हूँ कि वे अपने विभाग के छोटे, कर्मचारियों की

[श्रीमती सावित्री स्वाम]

और, छोटे कार्यों की ओर पहले ध्यान देंगे और फिर बाद की योजनाओं को देखेंगे। मिसाल के तौर पर मैं आर० एम० एस० के सम्बन्ध में कहना चाहती हूँ। आर० एम० एस० का सम्बन्ध डाकखानों और रेलों दोनों से है। आप किसी भी आर० एम० एस० की बिल्डिंग का माइना कीजिए, नजदीक ही सहायनपुर चले जाइए या बरेली चले जाइए। वहाँ आप पायेंगे कि 50, 50 और 40, 40 वर्ष की बनी हुई बिल्डिंगें हैं जो कि बहुत ही खराब हालत में हैं और डिप्लेपिडेड कंडीशन में हैं। आप वहाँ जा कर देखिए कि किस तरह से अनहार्डजीनिक वातावरण के अन्दर लोग काम करते हैं। आप वहाँ पर जा कर देखें और इन्कवायरी करा कर देखें कि जो माटंर और पोर्टर काम करते हैं, उन में कम से कम 5) फीसदी आप को बीमार अवस्था में मिलेंगे, चाहे वे टी० बी० से ग्रस्त हों और चाहे वे गांस की बीमारी से ग्रस्त हो। ये भी आप के डिपार्टमेंट के कर्मचारी हैं और ये भी आप के एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन की एक लड़ी हैं। प्रो० शेर सिंह ने बहुत कुछ काम किया है और उन के जमाने में विभाग ने तरक्की की है लेकिन मैं यह कहती हूँ कि उन्होंने बड़े बड़े काम किये और छोटे छोटे कामों को इग्नोर किया। मैं उन पर कोई आक्षेप नहीं करना चाहती और इस में कोई संदेह नहीं है कि जब भी कोई पत्र उन के पास लिखा गया तो उन्होंने यह नहीं लिखा कि 'दि मेटर बिल बी सुबड इन्टू', बल्कि उन्होंने उस काम को किया, लेकिन मैं यह जरूर कहूँगी कि छोटी-छोटी समस्यायें अघूरी रह गई, अघूरी ही नहीं बल्कि निगलेकट रही। अब आप ने इस विभाग का कार्य अपने हाथ में लिया है और मैं आशा करती हूँ कि इस से कुछ लाभ ही होगा।

इसके साथ ही साथ आप यह भी देखें कि टेलीफोन में ही नहीं, पोस्टल टेलीग्राफ में कितनी आपके विभाग को हानि है। आप के विभाग से एक डाक-तार मीथामीन निकलती है और यह बड़े क्रेडिट की बात है कि मीथामीन के लेकक ने साफ

साफ शब्दों में अपने विभाग की इस बात को कहा है। इस के अन्दर सास की जो फीगर्स दी गई हैं, वे 1965-66 में 33.8 मिलियन, 1965-66 में 88.4 मिलियन, 1967-68 में 141 मिलियन और इसी तरह से 1971-72 में बढ़ा कर वह 170.2 मिलियन हो गई हैं। इस सब घटोतरी का कारण क्या है? क्या घटोतरी हुई है? यह एक बेलफेयर संस्था ही नहीं है। यह एक कमशियल संस्था भी है और इस में घटोतरी के जो कारण हैं वे स्पष्ट हैं। इस सम्बन्ध में आप टैरिफ कमीशन की पिछली रिपोर्ट को देखें। उस में सब से पहले यह लिखा था कि पी० एण्ड टी० विभाग के अन्दर जो पोस्ट कार्ड है, उसकी कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन 13.4 पैसे आती है और आप उस को 10 पैसे में देते हैं। इस के बारे में यह कहा जा सकता है कि एक गरीब आदमी, एक गरीब व्यक्ति पोस्ट कार्ड इस्तेमाल करता है। मैं इस बात को नहीं मानती। मैं तो कहूँगी कि बिजनेस सेन्टर्स और बिजनेस मैगनेट्स के यहां पोस्ट कार्ड का अधिक से अधिक उपयोग किया जाता है। इस का इस्तेमाल रिमाइन्डर भेजने में, एकनालिजमेंट भेजने में और जो मार्केट के रेट्स हैं उनके सर्कुलर भेजने में, बिजनेस सेन्टर द्वारा अधिक से अधिक तादाद में किया जाता है। उसकी कीमत अब और बढ़ने लगी है और वह 15.2 पैसे तक होने वाली है क्योंकि बेजज बढ़ायेंगे, कागज की कीमत बढ़ेगी और जो दूधरी एलाइड चीजें हैं उनकी कीमत बढ़ेगी, तो पोस्ट कार्ड की कीमत भी बढ़ेगी। इस में जो मोटा कागज लगता है, उस की कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन भी ज्यादा आएगी। इसलिए मेरा कहना है कि बिना किसी डर के, आप पोस्ट कार्ड की कीमत इनलैंड लिफाफे के बराबर यानी 15 पैसे कर दें। यह ए० आर० सी० की भी सिफारिश है और टैरिफ कमीशन की भी सिफारिश है और जब आप इसका इन्वेस्टीगेशन करायेंगे तब आप इस नतीजे पर पहुंचेंगे कि इस बाटे को इसी से पूरा करना चाहिए और साथ में एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव रिफ़ॉर्म्स कमीशन ने यह भी कहा था, यह सिफारिश की थी कि जो पी० एण्ड टी० का बाटा है, वह बाहरी संस्थाओं से जो पोस्ट

[श्रीमती सावित्री घाम]

करते हैं वह नहीं होना चाहिए बल्कि इसको अपने अन्दर से ही, अपने टेली-कम्युनिकेशन के और पोस्ट कार्डों की कीमत को बढ़ा कर करना चाहिए। साथ ही उन्होंने यह भी सिफारिश की थी कि गांव गांव में डाकघर होना चाहिए और यह बहुत जरूरी है। हरेक आदमी का दिमाग इतना तेज हो गया है कि उस के पास जो समय है उसको वह खोना नहीं चाहता। वह कहीं दूर जाकर फंसेलिटीज एवेल करना नहीं चाहता बल्कि वह अपने दरवाजे पर ही उनको चाहता है। आज 6 गांव के ऊपर एक पोस्ट आफिस है। न्याय पंचायतों में बड़ी कठिनाई के साथ टेलीफोन देखने को मिलता है। चुनाव के दिनों में हमने देखा है कि कितने पोस्ट आफिस हैं। न्याय पंचायत के स्तर पर पोस्ट आफिस हम को नहीं मिला। आप जगह जगह बिल्डिंग बनाते हैं, जगह जगह आप स्टाफ रखते हैं, इस की कोई जरूरत नहीं। मैं ऐसा समझती हूँ कि आप पंचायतों की यह कार्य दे दीजिए और इस से उन की आमदनी भी बढ़ेगी और डिपार्टमेंट को भी इस से बचत होगी और इस तरह से आप के घाटे की पूर्ति होगी।

एक बात और कहना चाहती हूँ। टैरिफ कमिशन ने भी कहा है कि ए० आर० सी० के भी कहा है कि हर आदमी चाहता है कि उस के पास टेलीफोन हो और वास्तव में जरूरत भी है क्योंकि जब आदमी जल्दी से जल्दी चांद पर पहुंचना चाहता है तो वह यह भी चाहता है कि मिनटों में दूसरे से बात कर ले। इसलिए उस की जो यह टेलीफोन की जरूरत है वह पूरी होनी चाहिए जिन के पास पैसा है, हिम्मत है, साहस है और जिन की कंपैसिटी है, बड़ी टेलीफोन रहेगा। टेलीफोन की जो ओ० वाई० टी०, और थोर टेलीफोन है और जो नान ओ० वाई० टी० है, उस की क्वार्टरली फीस 90 रुपये है बड़े बड़े शहरों में यह बहुत बम्बई हो, कलकत्ता हो या बिल्की। मेरा कहना यह है कि उस को आप बढ़ाएँ और इस को बढ़ाने में आप को हिचक नहीं करना चाहिए। जब आमदनी की जरूरत

है, इस देश की बढ़ती हुई समस्याओं को हल करने के लिए चाहे वे रिफ्यूजीज की हों या कोई और उस के लिए जो रिसॉसिज टेप किये जाने चाहिए वे करने चाहियें। इसलिए यह जो 90 रुपये क्वार्टरली फीस है या रेंट है, यह बहुत कम है और इस को कम से कम 100 रुपये होना चाहिए और इससे भी अधिक अगर हो सकता हो तो मुझे कोई एतराज नहीं है।

इसी तरह से पोस्ट बॉक्स कौन इस्तेमाल करता है। उनको क्या कामन मेन इस्तेमाल करता है। मैं समझती हूँ कि मेरी कांस्टीट्यून्सी में मुश्किल से 10 आदमी पोस्ट बॉक्स इस्तेमाल करते हैं। रूरल ऐरियाज में भी जो पोस्ट बॉक्स इस्तेमाल करते हैं वे सब कमशियल कन्सर्न इस्तेमाल करते हैं, सब बिजनेसमैन ही होते हैं और वे लोग पैसा अनं करते हैं तो उन में लीजिए। उन से फीस के रूप में, रेंट के रूप में लीजिए, यह लीनियन्सी दिखाने का युग नहीं है। इसमें तो सभी को सहयोग देना पड़ेगा और बढ़ती हुई एकेनामी में आप को सहयोग चाहिए। आप को सहयोग लेने की हिम्मत होनी चाहिए, सहयोग आपको मिलेगा।

मैं समझती हूँ कि इम विभाग में आप ने नया पदार्पण किया है और मैं आशा करती हूँ कि आप उत्साह का परिचय देंगे और अपने विभाग में यह देखेंगे कि जो भी साधन टेप किये जा सकते हैं उन को टेप करेंगे और इस विभाग में आमदनी कर के दिखाएँगे। वैसे तो यह विभाग बहुत बड़ा है और दुनिया भर की बातें इसके ऊपर कही जा सकती हैं, बड़े विज्ञान की, बड़ी टेकनालोजी की, लेकिन मैं छोटी बातें कहना चाहती हूँ, और यह समझ कर कहना चाहती हूँ कि श्री बहुगुणा का इस विभाग से सम्बन्ध है और मैं अपनी कांस्टीट्यून्सी से सम्बन्धित बातें कहना चाहती हूँ।

मैं आशा करती हूँ कि तीसरी योजना की जो भी योजनाएँ अब तक पेंडिंग और पूरी नहीं हो पाई हैं, उन को पूरा करने में वह सहयोग देंगे और जब को पूरा करायेंगे। तीसरी पंच-वर्षीय योजना में यह निश्चित किया गया था कि

बरेली में आटो एक्सचेंज लगेगा। बिल्डिंग भी बन गई। वर्षों से बिल्डिंग बनी पड़ी है और उस पर न जाने कितनी धूप, वर्षा और ओले पड़ चुके हैं। न वह किसी काम में आती है और न आटो एक्सचेंज का इन्स्टालेशन ही हो पाता है। तीसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना की जो भी योजनाएँ हैं उनके लिए बार बार कह दिया जाता है कि कापर केबल नहीं है, जो आयरन स्ट्रक्चर होना चाहिए उस के लिए पाट्स नहीं मिलते। मैं पूछना चाहती हूँ कि बड़ौदा (1), कलकत्ता (1) के लिए, जहाँ बिल्डिंगे बाद में बनी थी कहां से वह सामान आ गया? खुले बाजार से सामान खरीदा गया और वहां से लाकर यह आटो एक्सचेंज लगाये गये, लेकिन लुधियाने के अन्दर, बरेली के अन्दर और बड़ौदा (2) के अन्दर बिल्डिंगे बनी पड़ी है, रुपया लग गया है, लेकिन वह किसी काम नहीं आ रहा है, उग का कोई उपयोग नहीं हो रहा है।

बरेली एक स्ट्रैटेजिक प्वाइंट है और बांडर एरिया का स्थान है। वहां एक मिलिटरी हास्पिटल का बेम है, ईस्टर्न कमान्ड का हेडक्वार्टर है और सारे एशिया का सबसे बड़ा आर्ट० जी० आर० आई० वहा स्थापित है। टननी बड़ी जगह को कम से कम पांच छ मालों से नेगलेक्ट करना और उस पर लगे हुए धन का नुकसान करना तथा किसी न किसी बहाने उस को टालते रहना कहां तक न्यायसंगत है? हम देखते हैं कि लोगों की परेशानी होती है और तीन-तीन, चार-चार घण्टों तक ट्रंक टेलिफोन पर बैठे रहना होता है, लेकिन तब भी यह योजना मेटोरियलाइज नहीं हुई है। एक बार तो मुझे रान के एक बजे तक बैठे रहना पड़ा। आखिर जब सब जगहों पर सब-आटो एक्सचेंज बनाये गये है तब यहां पर बिल्डिंग बन जाने के बाद भी आटो एक्सचेंज न बनाने का क्या कारण है? आज मैं इस डिमाण्ड पर बोलने के लिए इसलिए खड़ी हुई हूँ कि कम से कम 20 पत्र मेरी कास्टिटुएन्सी वालों ने भेजा है, यह सोच कर कि श्री बहुगुणा हमारे सूबे के हैं, हमारे ऊपर कुछ रियायत करेंगे और हम उन पर कुछ हक रखते

हैं। यह बहुत पहले से इस चीज की डिमाण्ड करते रहे हैं और अब मंत्री महोदय से काफी आशा रखते हैं।

यह निश्चय किया गया था कि यू० पी० के हर एक तहसील हेडक्वार्टर में टेलिफोन एक्सचेंज लगेगा। फरीदपुर पड़ा हुआ है, आंखला पड़ा हुआ है, बहेड़ी पड़ा हुआ है, मं रगंज पड़ा हुआ है। यह मोस्ट इम्पार्टेंट बिजिनेस सेन्टर हैं और यहां अच्छे अच्छे काम हो रहे हैं। इसलिए यहां पर टेलिफोन एक्सचेंज की सुविधा दी जानी चाहिए। लेकिन यह भी नहीं दिया जा सकता जबकि वहां के लोग इस के लिए जिम्मेदारी लेने के लिए तैयार हैं, पैसा लगाने के लिए तैयार हैं और अगर इसके लिए कोई कंट्रीब्यूटरी स्कीम लागू की जाय तो उस के लिए भी तैयार हैं। मैं कहना चाहती हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय में माहस होना चाहिए इन कामों को करने का और जो बरेली की पुगनी डिमाण्ड है और पांच मात वर्षों से पड़ी हुई है उस को वह पूरा कराये।

मैंने कुछ वर्षों की आडिट रिपोर्टें पढ़ीं। मैंने देखा कि एक ही प्रकार की अनियमितताएँ, इर्रगुलैरिटीज है जो बार बार आडिट रिपोर्ट में दोहराई जाती है। पी० ए० सी० के सामने आडिट रिपोर्टें आती हैं और सदन के सामने प्रश्नोत्तर के रूप में यह चीजें आती हैं, लेकिन होता क्या है कि बार बार सब अनियमितताएँ दोहराई जाती है। यह बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आती। मिसाल के तौर पर आप देखिये कि जो लोएस्ट टेंडर होता है उस को स्वीकार नहीं किया जाता। उस का स्टैंडर्ड स्पेसिफिकेशन है, फाइलों में ऐप्रूव्ड है, उस के बाद भी उस लोएस्ट टेंडर को मंजूर न कर के मनमानी बात चलती है। इस का क्या कारण है यह कहीं नहीं बतलाया जाता। जो असेसमेंट होता है उस के बिलान्स काम किया जाता है। 200 टेलिफोन इंस्ट्रुमेंट्स की जरूरत है, 200 वाक्सेज की जरूरत है, लेकिन बनाये गये 12०0, लेकिन इस का कोई कारण नहीं बतलाया जाता कि वह अनियमितताएँ क्यों हुईं।



[श्रीमती सावित्री स्वाम]

इसी तरह से जो चीजों की ज़रूरत वाली टेंडर हैं जो बिस्कुल स्पेसिफिकेशन के ऊपर पूरे उतरते हैं, उन को डिसेम्बर कर के मनमाने तरीके से चीजें बाहर से ले ली जाती हैं। मैं कहती हूँ कि अगर आवश्यकताएँ पूरी न हो सके तभी आप को ओपन मार्केट से लेना चाहिए और उन का इन्स्टालेशन होना चाहिए। साधारण बात यह है कि एक चीज के टेंडर इन्वाइट किये जाते हैं और स्टैंडर्ड से ठीक उतरते हैं लेकिन उनको लिया नहीं जाता। मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि आखिर उन को न लेने का कारण क्या है? बार बार पी० ए० सी० में यह मामला आता है, कई बच्चों की रिपोर्टों को देखने से यह पता चलता है। चिछली कमेटियों की रिपोर्टों की छान बीन करने से यह नतीजा मैंने निकाला है। इन अनियमितताओं को दूर करने का प्रयास किया जाना चाहिए।

यू० पी० के अन्दर कम्बाइन्ड आफिसेज खोलने का जो प्रपोजल था उस को आये हुए बहुत दिन हो गये। अभिप्राय यह था कि वहाँ पर पोस्ट आफिस भी हो, टेलिफोन हाल भी हो। इस तरह के कम्बाइन्ड आफिसेज का प्रपोजल पास हुआ था। उसके बहुत दिन हो गये लेकिन बार बार दोहराने पर भी बहुत कम जगहों पर यह काम हो सका है। यह पूरे यू० पी० की मांग है और इस पर ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए।

यह विभाग बहुत अनबील्डी हो गया है और डिमांडेसी का तकाजा है कि इस का डिसेंट्रलाइजेशन किया जाये। हमेशा ही सब जगह बोर्ड या कमेटी बैठ कर काम करती हैं और वहाँ सब को काम करने का मौका मिलता है। यह जरूरी नहीं है कि जो डिपार्टमेंट का मिनिस्टर है या जो विभाग का सेक्रेटरी है उस के ही हिस्से में पूरी की पूरी अकल आ गई है। जितनी भी हमारी इंडेपेंडेंसिया है, जितनी भी टेकनालोजी है, उस का पूरा पूरा फायदा हम को उठाना चाहिए। हमने देखा है कि जहाँ भी काम अधिक हो जाता है और विभाग बड़ा हो जाता है वही

कारपोरेशन बन जाता है। एअर इंडिया में है, एल० आई० सी० में है। यह जो विभाग है वह छोटे से लेकर बड़े तक, गिनती तो मुझे याद नहीं, लेकिन बहुत अधिक कर्मचारियों से भरा पड़ा है। यह बहुत बड़ा डिपार्टमेंट है। आज यह आवश्यकता नहीं रही कि आप इस को एक विभाग के तरीके से टूट करें। अब यह केवल एक विभाग रहने लायक नहीं है। इस का आटोनोमस कारपोरेशन बनना चाहिए। ए० आर० सी० ने जो सिद्धान्त रक्खे हैं, जैसे विभाग के इतने फंड्स हो जायें, कर्मचारियों की इतनी संख्या हो जाये तब वह आटोनोमस कारपोरेशन हो जाये, उस को देखते हुए इस को भी कारपोरेशन बना दिया जाना चाहिए। ए० आर० सी० ने कहा है कि जब कोई विभाग इतना कर्जा लेने और इतना कर्जा देने लग जाये, अपने काम में इनिशिएटिव लेने की स्वतन्त्रता रखता हो और अपने काम को जिम्मेदारी के साथ कर सके तो उस को कारपोरेशन हो जाना चाहिए। मंत्री महोदय का यह डिपार्टमेंट इतना बड़ा हो गया है कि विभाग उस को पूरी तरह से देख नहीं सकता। मैं यह भी नहीं चाहती कि किमी आई० ए० एम० या पी० सी० एम० को उमका चैयरमैन बना कर रख दिया जाये। उस का चैयरमैन एक टेकनिकल पर्सन होना चाहिए। आज टेकनोलोजी का जमाना है। अब वह दिन गये जब ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव सर्विस के लोग एजेंट के रूप में काम करने थे। आज मांग है कि टेकनिकल पर्सन्स, साइंटिस्ट्स और इंजीनियर्स के हाथ में कारपोरेशन होने चाहियें जो कि स्कीम्स को फार्मुलेट करें और उन को कार्यान्वित भी करें। ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव रिफार्म्स कमिशन ने बड़ी मेहनत कर के अपने सुझाव दिये हैं। वह एक बहुत बड़ा पोषा है। उस के अन्दर बार बार यह कहा गया है कि यह विभाग अनबील्डी है और वह इस काम को पूरी तरह से नहीं कर सकता। इस डिमांडेसी के जमाने में इतनी मेहनत इस विभाग के द्वारा होने वाली नहीं है, इस पर ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए।

SHRI THA KIRUTTINAN (Sivaganja) :  
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the postal service

covering the posts and telegraphs, telephones and the overseas communications and allied services is India's second largest national undertaking. It has been recognised that tele-communications serve as a fair index of the growth of the national economy. It has been an indispensable instrument of the Government and an essential tool of the economic and industrial activity of the people.

Telephone has been playing, particularly in the last one decade, so vital a role that it has not only ceased to be the symbol of luxury but has become a part of the normal needs of the common man.

It is seen from the report of the P & T Department that the services of posts, telegraphs, telephones and international communication show satisfactory progress but not to the satisfaction of this House or the people of this country. The number of post offices has increased; the number of telegraph offices has increased; the number of telephones has increased but apart from this the Finance Minister in his Budget speech has expressed his concern over the loss in the past and expected during the current year which is as much as Rs. 15 crores. So, he has proposed increases in the tariff rates relating to the registration fees of postal articles, telegraphs and telephones.

First of all, I would like to draw your kind attention to the working of the post offices. There were 1,04,955 post offices on 31st March, 1970 as compared to 70,713 in 1960. This means, one out of six villages has a post office. There are more than 5 lakh villages and a post office now serves 11.18 square miles and a population of 4,166. This is highly inadequate in our country. The number of post offices in the rural areas on July 1, 1970 was 95,235 as against 10,198 in the urban areas. This is also poor when it is compared with other developed countries.

When we look into the working of the post offices, we find that the postal branch ran into a deficit of Rs. 13 crores in 1964-65. The deficit went on increasing in the succeeding years and reached the figure of Rs. 14.11 crores in 1967-68. Even with a raise in tariffs there was a deficit of Rs. 6.04 crores in the year 1968-69. The question of tariff was recently examined by the P & T Tariff

Inquiry Committee headed by Thiru Mahavir Tyagi. On the recommendations of this Committee, postal rates were increased in 1968-69. Further increases have also been made during the Budget of 1970-71. Even then there was a deficit of Rs. 2.27 crores. So, increasing the tariff will not solve the problem. A clearcut policy should be enunciated. Keeping in view all this deficit and loss, we cannot reduce the number of post offices in the rural areas which will affect our national economy.

With regard to telegraphs, except in the year 1959-60 and also in 1961-62, the telegraph services have been incurring heavy losses continuously for the last 12 years. The estimated loss for the year 1969-70 is Rs. 6.86 crores. Immediate steps are necessary to control the cost of handling telegraph messages and to effect other economies.

With regard to telephones, the development in India, considerable as it was, was poor in comparison with the achievement in some other developed countries. In USA there are 100 million lines and in Japan 15 million lines as against 11 million lines in India. The number of telephones per thousand of population in India, for instance, is among the lowest in the world.

As far as telephone bills are concerned, for bills issued up to 31st March, 1970, collection of Rs. 6.78 crores as telephone revenue was in arrears on 1st July, 1970.

For bills issued upto 31st March, 1970, collection of Rs. 196.38 lakhs as rent of telegraph/telephone circuits and Telex/Intelex charges was in arrears on 1st July, 1970.

Apart from this, there is a heavy loss in the Department. In 1968-69, the loss was Rs. 1,20,32,922 and in 1969-70, it was Rs. 1,11,55,169. Then, defalcations or loss of public money during 1969-70 and savings banks frauds amounted to Rs. 7,19,767 and the amount recovered was Rs. 1,79,796. As regards post office certificate frauds, the loss was Rs. 20,041 and the amount recovered was Rs. 1,541 only. In the case of money orders including telegraphic and value paid money orders frauds, it was Rs. 2,97,219 and the amount recovered was Rs. 83,009 only. In regard to insured articles frauds and losses, the loss was Rs. 3,54,448 and the amount

[Shri Tha Kiruttinan]

recovered was Rs. 18,961. With regard to miscellaneous frauds and losses, it was Rs. 5,43,697 and the amount recovered was Rs. 1,93,370.

Keeping in view all these things, I would suggest the following points for your consideration.

Except for the letters post, the tariffs fixed for other items of postal services, such as, post card, registered newspapers, the registered post, money orders and printed books are not commensurate with the operational expenses incurred. So, the postal services and the items of traffic whose low tariff is deemed to be in the public interest, must be subsidised from the General Revenues. The Government of India should give serious consideration to this issue.

Although, the P & T Department as a commercial-cum-public utility service has many social obligations, in this connection, I would like to cite the recommendations of the Railway Convention Committee, 1960, which has been approved by Parliament, that loss on strategic railway lines should be borne by the General Revenues. Another instance is the proviso to Section 34(2) of the Air Corporations Act, 1953 for re-imbursing losses to Air Corporations for running air services on a route at a loss in implementation of the directions of the Government of India.

In support of this, I would like to quote the report of the Estimates Committee, 1960-61 :

"The Committee are of the opinion that the Government may examine whether the losses incurred by the Department in the implementation of social obligations of increasing the postal, telegraph and telephone facilities in rural and remote areas, etc. should be met from the General Revenues."

Secondly, efforts should also be made to expand and popularise the Telex Services which is more remunerative than the ordinary telegraph service so as to improve the financial viability of Telegraph Service as a whole.

Thirdly, a separate Budget for the P & T Department should be presented. To support

this, I would like to invite your kind attention to the recommendations of the A.R.C. Report.

Fourthly, a statutory Board should be constituted. In support of this, I would like to quote the Estimates Committee Report, 1960-61 :

"It is high time that consistent with the responsibilities and social obligations of the Department, due recognition is given to its commercial character by conferring on the P & T Board, powers similar to those enjoyed by the Railway Board or at any rate the substance of powers enjoyed by public undertakings such as the Indian Airlines Corporation which may enable it to approach the problems of management and organisation with a more business like mind and a greater sense of enterprise."

The A.R.C. Report also recommends for a statutory Board.

Fifthly, it is seen that at present there is nobody at the Centre representing various categories of users to consider matters relating to the services and facilities provided by the P & T Department similar to the National Railway Users' Consultative Council. So, a P & T Users' Consultative Council may be constituted for the purpose.

With regard to complaints, I feel that there is no machinery to register the complaints and dispose them off properly. The total number of complaints is on the high side, particularly, in regard to delay in delivery of postal articles including money orders and telegrams in rural areas. It is informed by the Department that partly it is due to expansion of the Department and partly it is due to deterioration in the standard of efficiency.

So, whenever a complaint is found to be well-grounded, suitable action is to be taken against the official at fault and steps should be taken to avoid recurrence. For this, the Department may maintain proper record of the number and nature of the complaint, particularly, those which are well-grounded, analyse them carefully and initiate effective remedial measures so as to reduce their incidence.

With regard to planning and finance, I am given to understand that apart from the general discussions at the Conference of Post-Masters General, the Circle Heads are not asked to draw up their detailed plans. So, the plans drawn up at the apex level without the complete association of the Circles are apt to be somewhat unrealistic and unrelated to the needs of the constituent units. Hence, a better procedure would be for the detailed plans to be drawn up on the basis of the broad objectives and policies set down by the Department, by the lower administrative units, namely, the Divisions. Such plans may be discussed at a conference of the Divisional Heads and at the Circle level by the Heads of the Circles and by the functional units at the Directorate level so that a co-ordinated plan is drawn up.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands of the Ministry of Communications I associate myself with my hon. friend in whole-heartedly appreciating the good things done by this ministry after Independence.

I cannot exaggerate the importance of this Ministry and the various programmes that have been undertaken by this Ministry for the unification of the country and also to increase the efficiency and the general productivity in the various spheres of national life. Communications, especially the telephones, telegraphic services also the post offices, have to play an important role in the national life. They are like the nervous system in the human body.

I would like to confine myself to the Eastern Zone to which I belong. My hon. friend—from Assam has high-lighted the shortcomings of that region with special reference to Assam. My area, Manipur, comes under the Shillong Circle. The Telephone Directory under the Shillong Circle is hardly one-fifth of the size of the Delhi Telephone Directory. This amply indicates the shortcomings of that area which comprises Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Manipur, Nagaland and NEFA. So, one can imagine that there must be a lot to be done in the field of telephones in that area with special reference to Manipur. Imphal, the

capital of Manipur, has yet to have an auto exchange. We have been hearing for the last several years that Imphal will be having a dialling system. I want to know what has happened to the proposal for construction of a building for the Imphal Exchange upto now we see that the telephone exchange in Imphal is continuing in the old improvised building which was constructed during the Second World War by the Allied forces.

It appears that there has been no significant improvement done on this building. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, whose sense of initiative and enthusiasm and dynamism has been amply praised by my hon. friends who spoke before was to this aspect of the problem so that necessary steps may be taken without delay.

Regarding trunk calls, trunk calls between Imphal and any other station outside Manipur is absolutely hopeless. Maybe, I am a little too hard in using the term 'hopeless'. This area is a very rainy and difficult area. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this aspect and also the experts that the equipments should be so made and so reformed as to adjust to the climatic conditions of the different parts of the country. I myself being a non-technical man do not know where the defect actually lies, but our experience is this that we are not able to contact any part of the country from Imphal on the trunk line effectively. I do not know how the Government communication is going on. Government must have their own special arrangement. But, then, so far as the public are concerned, their sufferings cannot be exaggerated. Therefore, this difficulty has to be removed urgently.

Coming to Post Offices, I want to say this. Manipur has vast hill areas. Only 1/10 of the area is valley. 9/10 of the area cover large number of villages etc. populated by small pockets of the population. These small villages which are far between have to develop the habit of participating in postal transactions. There is a vicious circle here. The Government through the P and T Department are trying to start part-time post offices. Sometimes a wrong man is selected. A part-time shop keeper is appointed for the post office. Whether the people will have postal transactions or not will depend upon

[Shri N. Tombi Singh]

his performance. Whenever there is a demand for opening of post offices Government say that there is not much of transactions and so there is no justification for opening post offices. Both sides are dependent upon one another. This vicious circle has to be removed. As far as practicable, part-time post offices should be replaced by full-time, full-fledged post offices, sub-post-offices whichever term may apply. Even where there is necessity of opening part-time post offices, selection of persons should be very carefully done.

There are various villages scattered at far, far distant places. So, this has got to be attended to and they have to be provided with postal and communication services.

14. hrs.

I now come to another very important aspect, namely the issuing of commemorative stamps. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not mention a few very important names which the nation as a whole should remember and in whose memory postal stamps can be issued and should be issued. For instance, I would first mention the name of Vir Tikendrajit Singh. He was the hero of the last war between Manipur and the British Empire. It was on August 13, 1891 that he was hanged along with other martyrs because of their patriotism, because of their love for their motherland and because of their struggles to save their motherland. We know that such heroes are there in different parts of the country. Though he belonged to a small part of the country, namely Manipur, he struggled to defend the freedom of Manipur, his motherland. He was born in a small State, but with a great heart. Freedom is indivisible, and the degree of his love for the Motherland was of the highest order.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (मुरैला) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, सदन में गणपूर्ति नहीं है।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is no quorum. The hon. Member may resume his seat for a while. The bell is being rung—

Now, there is quorum. The hon. Member may now resume his speech.

SHRI TOMBI SINGH : I am grateful to you for the great attention that you have

given me and I am also grateful to my hon. friends who have given such kind attention to the subject that I am raising before the House now, and this itself has indicated that the subject raised is of national importance.

I was making a reference to Vir Tikendrajit Singh who may be remembered by the nation by issuing a commemorative stamp.

Another great man who can be remembered equally well is Rajrishi Bhagya Chandra who about two hundred years back was the founder and the master-brain of the Manipur Raslika classical style of dancing. And his name also must be commemorated by issuing Commemorative Stamps. Although he was born in a small part of the country surrounded by long ranges of hills yet he had the ability and vision of developing very rich classical style of dancing. He was not only a king but a unifier of Manipur also. He gave rich classical tradition of dancing to the whole people. We in the country have, therefore, to be grateful to such a great man. It will be in the fitness of things, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, that the Ministry of Communications examines the possibility of the commemoration by issuing a stamp in his memory. 13th of August is the death anniversary of Vir Tikendrajit Singh. I emphatically suggest that a stamp in his memory be issued on the 13th of August.

Before I conclude, Sir, I would like to say I was trying to impress upon the Hon'ble House that our area which is cut off because of hilly terrain must be effectively linked up with other parts of the country through the communication system so that our closeness with the country in spite of its physical distances must be ensured.

I thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker.

डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय (मंदसौर)  
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, बनी जिस मंत्रालय की मांगो पर बर्बा हो रही है उस का स्वरूप हमारे नये मंत्री महोदय ने देखा है। हजारों की तादाद में बिना बंदी चिट्ठियों के बंडल और थैले जब पकड़े गये तो इस से साफ सिद्ध होता है कि इस विभाग में कितनी दक्षता है? कितनी खुबसूरत है? या कितनी वह नियमित काम करते है?

[श्री कर्मनारायण पांडेय]

यह केवल एक ही उदाहरण नहीं है। इस के पूर्व भी इस प्रकार के उदाहरण भोपाल में भी देखे गए हैं जब एक्सप्रेस डेलीवरी के कुछ बंडल बिना बंटे हुए प्राप्त किए गए। मैं आप का ध्यान इस ओर भी आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा कि जो विभाग अपनी दक्षता के लिए और अपनी नियमित सेवाओं के लिए, जन जन तक अपनी सेवाये पहुंचाने के लिए प्रसिद्ध था उस विभाग में कितनी लापरवाही है और कितनी अनियमितता पैदा हो गई है, यह केवल इन दो ही उदाहरणों से स्पष्ट हो जाता है। इस सदन में इस बारे में चर्चा आई थी कि टेलीफोन विभाग में भी किन प्रकार के चोरियां प्रारम्भ हो गई हैं। सदन में चर्चा आई, उस में कुछ कर्मचारी पकड़े गए, वह भी बताया गया किन्तु यह बात निश्चित है कि इस विभाग में इस प्रकार से जो अनियमिततायें पैदा हो रही हैं उन को दूर करने का सामयिक प्रयत्न नहीं किया गया तो यह विभाग जो गांव गांव और नगर नगर के कोने कोने तक जा कर अपनी सेवायें पहुंचाता है वह देश की जनता के विश्वास का भाजन नहीं रह जायगा। बिना बंटी या डाक टेलीफोन ही नहीं, जो मनी आर्डर दूर दूर के गांवों तक पहुंचने चाहिए वह समय पर नहीं पहुंच पाते या जिस व्यक्ति को मिलने चाहिए उन को मिल नहीं पाते। ऐसी शिकायतें एक नहीं अनक मर्किलों से मंत्री महोदय के ध्यान में आई होंगी। इस प्रकार की घटनायें आए दिन होती हैं और उनमें से कुछ मामले एक लम्बे समय के बाद जब पकड़ में आते हैं तो केवल किसी कर्मचारी विशेष के ऊपर सारा दोष थोप कर कार्यवाही करने का काम यह विभाग करता है। किन्तु ऐसी घटनायें दोहराई न जायें इस हेतु ठोस कार्यवाही करने की पहल सम्भवतः अभी तक नहीं की गई है।

मैं आप के द्वारा मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस ओर भी आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा कि एक तरफ तो तार, रजिस्ट्रेशन, डेलीफोन, इन सभी की दरें जब जब बज्रट आछा है तो बढ़ाई जाती हैं, दरें बढ़नी ही रहती हैं लेकिन इस के बाव-सम्ब

दक्षता बढ़नी चाहिए विभाग के कामों में वह नहीं बढ़ती। जिस चतुराई से या जिस गति से काम करना चाहिए वह नहीं होता है। एक तरफ वह दरें तो बढ़ीं लेकिन काम की जो दक्षता है वह घटी है। जिस अनुपात से यह निरन्तर चलना चाहिए, वह ठीक से नहीं हो पाता है।

हिन्दी तारों के सम्बन्ध में भी यहां पर चर्चा हुई है। आज हिन्दी तारों की जो दुर्दशा है, उस को लेने में किस प्रकार से आनाकानी होती है यह प्रायः सभी दूर की शिकायत है। हिन्दी तार यदि एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान पर पहुंच गया, तो साधारणतया ठीक समय पर मिल नहीं पाता है। यह दशा केवल हिन्दी तारों की ही नहीं है अंग्रेजी तारों की भी कभी कभी हो जाती है। अभी हमारे श्री कछवाय जी ने बतलाया कि उन्होंने एक तार भेजा, वह तार बाद में पहुंचा, उसके पहुंचने के पहले ही वे स्वयं पहुंच गये और तार पहुंचने की जो अवधि थी, वह सात दिन थी, जब कि सामान्यतः वह तार 24 घण्टे में पहुंच जाना चाहिए था।

टेलीफोन विभाग की दशा इस से भी खराब है। कई बार लाइन चालू होने के बाद भी हमारे टेलीफोन आपरेटर कह देते हैं—लाइन इंगेज्ड है। दोबारा उनसे पूछा जाता है तो कह देते हैं—पी० पी० आउट-आफ स्टेशन हैं, नो रिप्लाइ। इस प्रकार का जबाब देकर वह टेलीफोन करते वाले को सन्तुष्ट करने का प्रयत्न तो करते हैं किन्तु इस तरह के जवाबों से विभाग में काम करने की गति ठीक है—ऐसी प्रतीति नहीं होती है क्योंकि सदैव ही लाइन की खराबी या लाइन लम्बे समय तक इंगेज्ड रहना प्रायः संभव नहीं होता है।

हिन्दी के बारे में भी इस विभाग में काम करने की जो गति आनी चाहिए, वैसी दिखाई नहीं पड़ रही है। संचार मंत्रालय की रिपोर्ट में कहा है कि हम ने कई फार्म और दूसरे पत्रक हिन्दी में छाप दिये हैं, लेकिन डाकघरों में जाकर, या स्थानीय कार्यालयों में जाकर हिन्दी के फार्मों



[श्री लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय]  
की मांग करें तो उपलब्ध नहीं होते हैं। इस लिये, उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप के माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दी के बारे में हमारा जो निर्णय है, उस पर ठीक से अमल नहीं हो रहा है। मंत्री महोदय से भी मेरा अनुरोध है कि वह इस तरफ ठीक से ध्यान दें ताकि इस काम में गति आ सके और हिन्दी की उपेक्षा न हो।

टेलीप्रिन्टर लाइन के बारे में भी मंत्रालय की रिपोर्ट में एक जगह बताया गया है कि कहां कहां पर कितने टेलीप्रिन्टर काम कर रहे हैं। यह रिपोर्ट 1970-71 की है, इस में बताया गया है कि 31 दिसम्बर, 1970 तक 15993 स्थानों पर टेलीप्रिन्टर काम कर रहे हैं, जब कि देवनागरी लिपि के 600 टेलीप्रिन्टर काम कर रहे हैं। हिन्दी के टेलीप्रिन्टरों की संख्या को देख कर स्वयं पता चल जाता है कि हिन्दी के बारे में विभाग कितना उदासीन है। आप से आग्रह और अपेक्षा करूंगा कि हिन्दी के टेलीप्रिन्टर्स बढ़ाने की दिशा में प्रभावी कदम उठावें।

अब मैं आप के विभिन्न विभागों में काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों की आवश्यकताओं और उन की मांगों की ओर आप का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। आप के बहुत से कर्मचारी रेलवे मेल सर्विस में काम करते हैं, जिन को एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान पर जाना पड़ता है, वहां उन के ठहरने के लिए आवास-गृहों (रेस्ट हाउसेज) की ठीक व्यवस्था नहीं है। जिन जिन स्थानों पर रेस्ट-हाउसेज बने हुए हैं, वे इतने जीर्ण-शीर्ण हो गये हैं, कि उनमें साधारणतया उन का रहना कठिन हो गया है। आज वे लगभग 12 या 14 घण्टे की ड्यूटी देने जाते हैं, ऐसी स्थिति में यदि उन को ठीक से आराम नहीं मिलेगा, तो वे अपना काम ठीक से नहीं कर पायेंगे।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे मध्य प्रदेश में कई स्थानों पर टेलीफोन की मांग नितनरत बढ़ती जा रही है, लेकिन उस को पूरा करने में आप का विभाग सदैव असमर्थ रहता है। यद्यपि आप की

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि इस के बारे में भी प्रगति हुई है कुछ नये टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज की प्रारम्भ कर दिये जायेंगे, लेकिन जिस गति से काम होना चाहिए, उस गति से नहीं हो रहा है। इन्दौर, रतलाम, मन्दसौर, उज्जैन जैसे बड़े बड़े नगरों में बहुत बड़ी तादाद में उपभोक्ता टेलीफोन लेने के लिए तैयार हैं, इस से विभाग को बहुत अच्छी रेवेन्यू इन्कम हो सकती है, लेकिन विभाग की उदासीनता के कारण जहां पर टेलीफोन की मांग है, वहां पर नहीं दिये जा रहे हैं और जहां मांग नहीं है वहां क्षमता बढ़ाई जा रही है। यदि आप पब्लिक एकाउन्ट्स कमिटी और आडिट की रिपोर्ट को देखें तो आप को मालूम होगा कि जहां पर आवश्यकता नहीं है, वहां की क्षमता बढ़ाई जा रही है, पैसे का दुरुपयोग किया जा रहा है। दो-चार-दस लाख रुपया नहीं, बल्कि करोड़ों रुपयों की मशीनरी बेकार पड़ी हुई है और कोई उपयोग नहीं हो रहा है।

हमारे संचार मंत्रालय में जो घुटाले चला करते हैं, जो अव्यवस्थायें चला करती हैं, अब उन के दो चार उदाहरण आप के सामने प्रस्तुत करना चाहता हूँ। 1969-70 की जो आडिट रिपोर्ट है, उस में एक जमीन खरीदने का घुटाला नोटिस मं लाया गया है। इस में लिखा गया है—

"This resulted in extra expenditure of Rs 47,828 when compared with the lowest offer. Records showing reasons for rejection of the lowest offer were not produced to Audit."

इसके बारे में आडिट को कोई रिकार्ड नहीं दिखलाया गया।

इसी तरह से जी० आई० पाइप का मामला है। आडिट रिपोर्ट 1969-70 के पेज 11 पर दिया गया है कि किस प्रकार से इस में बहुत ज्यादा घुटाला हुआ है। इसके बारे में कोई निश्चित उत्तर आप के विभाग की तरफ से नहीं दिया गया। इसी तरह से इसी रिपोर्ट के पेज 13 पर रिकंस्ट्रक्शन आफ टेलीफोन लाइन्स का मामला दिया गया है। इस पर कुछ तरह से पैसा खर्च किया गया है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप

अपने उत्तर में बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जिस प्रकार से पैसे का दुरुपयोग किया गया है उसे भविष्य में रोकने हेतु कौन से कदम उठा रहे हैं। पेज 14 पर "कंस्ट्रक्शन आफ ओवर हेड हैटैक्स फार वाटर सप्लाय" का मामला है, इस में भी काफी पैसे का दुरुपयोग हुआ है, जिस की तरफ मैं आप का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा। अत्यन्त आश्चर्य की बात यह है कि जब कुछ विषयों के बारे में जानकारी की मांग की गई तो पोस्ट मास्टर जनरल ने उत्तर दिया—फाइल गायब हो गई है।

"The Postmaster General stated that it was difficult to explain why and how much of the second floor was lying vacant as the relevant file was missing (March 1970)."

फाइल आप के दफ्तर से गायब हो गई है और आप कार्यवाही करने में अमर्ष है—इस तरह से विभाग को करोड़ों रुपये का नुकसान पहुंचा है।

इतना ही नहीं—जब आडिट विभाग किसी चीज के बारे में उत्तर मांगता है तो आप का विभाग उत्तर देने में भी मर्ष नहीं है—

"The total number of inspection reports on Posts and Telegraphs offices issued by the Audit offices upto 31st March, 1969 and the number of irregularities pointed out therein remaining unsettled upto the end of August 1970 were 2909 and 17462 respectively."

इसके बारे में उत्तर देने को तैयार नहीं हैं।

अब दो-तीन अन्य महत्वपूर्ण बातों की ओर आप का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। हमारे मध्य प्रदेश की राजधानी भोपाल है। आप ने बहुत से स्थानों के लिए डाइरेक्ट डायलिंग सिस्टम चालू किया है, लेकिन भोपाल से दिल्ली, भोपाल से मन्डसौर जैसे महत्वपूर्ण स्थानों के लिए ऐसी व्यवस्था नहीं है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप इस तरह ध्यान दें और उस क्षेत्र के लोगों को भी इस से भी इस प्रकार की सुविधा प्रदान

करें, इस से विभाग को भी काफी लाभ होगा और वहाँ की जनता को भी काफी लाभ होगा।

आप का पोस्ट एण्ड टेलीग्राफ कोड 1954 में बना था। इस आधार-संहिता में 1954 के बाद कोई विशेष परिवर्तन या संशोधन नहीं हुआ है। हमारी अपेक्षा है कि आप इस तरफ ध्यान दें ताकि कर्मचारियों के हितों से सम्बन्धित बहुत सी बातों का समाधान उस के द्वारा हो सके।

आप की इन रिपोर्टों से मालूम होता है कि केवल टेलीफोन विभाग ही एक ऐसा विभाग है जो कमाई करता है। डाक-तार का विभाग बिलकुल घाटे में चल रहा है। इस में कहा गया है—

"The Committee are concerned to find that the Postal and Telegraph Branches of the P & T Department are continuing to run at a very heavy loss. The loss on the Postal Branches was Rs. 6.16 crores in 1968-69 and according to present estimates will go up to Rs. 7.06 crores in 1969-70."

इससे स्पष्ट हो जाता है कि पोस्टल डिपार्टमेंट सदैव घाटे में चलने वाला है, टेलीफोन विभाग आप का नफा देता है। लेकिन टेलीफोन विभाग के जो एरियर्स हैं, वे इतने ज्यादा हैं कि अगर आप उन को बसूल कर लें, तो उससे बहुत बड़ा लाभ आप को हो सकता है। पब्लिक अकाउण्ट्स कमेटी की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि :

"The Committee would like to point out that the arrears of telephone revenue are substantial. A sum of Rs. 3.22 crores was awaiting realisation as on 1st October, 1969 with Government subscribers accounting for a little over 50 per cent of the arrears."

इस प्रकार आपके विभाग में जिस तरह की दक्षता और खुस्तई आनी चाहिए और किस

[श्री कृष्णी, मारवाण पांजे]

बंध से काफ़ होना चाहिए मैं समझता हूँ उस तरह से आपका विभाग काम करने में अक्षम रहा है। मैं पुनः स्मरण कराना चाहूंगा कि मध्य प्रदेश में, विशेषकर इन्दौर, भोपाल, उज्जैन, रतलाम इत्यादि शहरों को दिल्ली, बम्बई आदि स्थानों से डायरेक्ट डायलिंग सिस्टम से सम्बद्ध करने तो उस से वहाँ की जनता की बहुत बड़ी आवश्यकता की पूर्ति हो सकेगी। इसके साथ ही साथ जहाँ पर टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज की मांग की गई है उस मांग को भी आप पूरा करने का कष्ट करें।

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में डाकघरों की व्यवस्था करने की बहुत आवश्यकता है। मैं इस ओर भी आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहूंगा। ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में यदि डाकघरों में घाटा होता है तो उसकी जबाबदेही ग्राम-पंचायतों पर डाली जाती है और ग्राम-पंचायतें उस घाटे को पूरा करने में असमर्थ रहती हैं इसलिए वे डाक घर बन्द हो जाते हैं। पाँच सौ से अधिक आबादी वाले गांवों में भी कई बार डाकघर चल नहीं पाते हैं क्योंकि उनको आप एक्सपेरिमेंटल बेसिस पर चलाते हैं और इस तरह से गांवों वाले को बड़ी असुविधा होती है। यदि आप उनको स्वयं चलायें तो गांव वालों के लिए यह सङ्घलियत बड़ी हितकारी हो सकती है।

एक बार पुनः धन्यवाद देते हुए मैं मन्त्री महोदय से कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिस साहस के साथ उन्होंने इन विभाग की अनियमितताओं और भ्रष्टाचार को निकालने के लिए एक उदाहरण जनता के सामने रखा है उसी प्रकार से इस विभाग में जो दक्षता की कमी है उसको भी दूर करने का प्रयत्न करेंगे तो सम्भवतः यह विभाग अधिक उपयोगी हो सकेगा। और मैंने जो कटीती के प्रस्ताव सदन के सामने प्रस्तुत किए हैं उनका उत्तर भी देने की कृपा करेंगे जिससे उनके बारे में आपकी प्रतिक्रिया ज्ञात हो सके।

DR. KAILAS (Bombay South): While supporting the demands for grants of the

Ministry of Communications, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that all is not well with his department. This is a social service department, and should not be taken as any other department and counted as a commercial department. This department is coming in direct contact with the people, not only in this country but also in other parts of the world, whether people are literate or illiterate, whether they are rich or poor. As a department which comes in direct contact with the common man, with humanity as a whole, it must show its efficiency to the entire satisfaction of the public. I feel that this department should be a mirror of the efficiency of the Central Government.

SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHWAI : On a point of order, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, there is no quorum.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let the Bell be rung—now there is quorum

Now, there is quorum. The hon. Member may continue.

DR. KAILAS : I was saying that this department is the mirror of efficiency of the Central Government, and hence, when this department was being considered as one of the finest and most efficient departments some years ago, that view is swiftly and fastly dwindling down. While I see that the letters which we post do not reach their destination in time, nay, perhaps they reach their destination after some weeks or months, at times we have seen that the letters have not reached their destination at all. The fate of even urgent telegrams has been that they have either not reached, or they reach when the purpose of sending the telegram is over.

Why has this inefficiency set in in this department which used to enjoy the glory of efficiency and service? Is it possible to form a small committee of Members of Parliament, prominent social workers and representatives from Class I, Class II, Class III and Class IV officers of this department to find out ways and means, without chalking out any financial responsibility, to bring back this glory of efficiency of this department? But if such a committee is formed, its recommendations must be implemented. If it is the intention of the Government not to implement the recommendations of such a committee, I

would prefer that such a committee may not be constituted.

But I have got great regard and great faith in the efficiency of the present Minister, Shri Bahuguna; when he has started going round *incognito* to visit some post-offices and finding bags of mail lying unattended to, I am sure this practice will continue not only in the city of Delhi, but perhaps he will go down to smaller places also where I have seen with my own eyes that the *babus* or the clerks do not come in time to the post-offices or they do not attend even to urgent telegrams and other matters of public importance. When people try to telephone from the public offices or public telephones, they find that the clerk is not present there. This callousness has irritated people most. I am sure Mr. Bahuguna who has taken up the reins of office only recently will fulfil the aspirations of the people and root out the corruption and nepotism prevailing in this department, which one can see with the naked eye.

This department has increased to unmanageable proportions. It consists of P and T, Overseas Communications, Wireless Planning and Coordination, Telephones and Teleprinters, Telex, Press Broadcast, International and National Services. Looking to the immense development of this department and the overseas communication developing fast, I suggest for the sake of efficiency, the Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore and the Hindustan Teleprinters, Madras, may be converted into a corporation or there should be a separate department for telephone and telecommunication and manufacture of telephones and teleprinters.

This department is the lifeline of progress and prosperity. But may I ask whether post offices have been located at a distance of 2 miles and telephone and telegraph offices at a distance of 5 miles? I think they have not been located at a distance of 5 or 10 miles. My friend says, not even 20 miles. Taking into consideration the public demands, let us plan and see that post offices, telegraph offices and telephone services are located in our border areas, right from Kashmir to NEFA and in the border areas of Rajasthan. This should not be delayed further and this should be done not only for the convenience of the public but also of the large number of our jawans there.

What social amenities is this department giving to its employees? People approach me for medical facilities and recreational facilities in Bombay. It is a very sorry state of affairs. There are poor people suffering from TB with nobody to look after them. They are forced to get a chit from here or there and get admission into some State hospitals or hospitals run by voluntary organisations which give them free accommodation and free treatment for sometime only. I would like to know from the Minister what medical, recreational and housing facilities are being extended to the employees of this Department.

Lastly, the scheduled castes percentage has been fixed while recruiting the people in the services. As I could glance through the reports of last few years, I am sorry to say that that percentage has never been reached. The applications of scheduled caste people are taken but they have either been never called or after interview and medical examination not selected. I would request Shri Bahuguna to see that this neglecting of scheduled castes should not happen.

SHRI K. BASAPPA (Chitradurga): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while I rise to support the demand, I would like to offer certain suggestions for the consideration of this Ministry. I congratulate this Ministry for having a programme of issuing commemorative stamps for the national leaders. In this connection I would like to suggest that a commemorative stamp may be issued in the name of Tipu Sultan, the late ruler of ex-Mysore. He was a great patriot who fought against the British rule in those days.

Then I come to the subsidy scheme for conveying the posts from railway station to the mofussil headquarters. It is far from satisfactory. The system now existing is that any private Bus operator is asked to convey the mail and under a great risk he is doing. The fare is fixed on the weightage of the bags conveyed. I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister that nothing is given for handling the posts from the railway station to the bus stand and *vice versa* and he has to maintain himself and carry these bags and take the responsibility of any losses incurred. It is to the disadvantage of the passengers travelling by the bus as these bags cover a large area in the bus. So, Sir, instead of adopting subsidy system, why should not the Department run their own vans from the

[Shri K. Basappa]

railway station to the mofussil head-quarters which would be very beneficial to the Department and also to the public.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछबाय : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, डाक-तार विभाग के ऊपर पिछले कई वर्षों से चर्चा नहीं हुई है, इस साल हो रही है लेकिन सदन में गणपूर्ति नहीं है। माननीय बहुयुगा जी आप के मंत्रालय की बहस सुनने को लोग तैयार नहीं लगते।

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I think this is becoming a regular feature. Three times the quorum has been challenged and three times the bell had to ring. If the House is not serious about it, I think, let us adjourn. Although the Business Advisory Committee has said—there was a gentleman's agreement—during the lunch hour or immediately after quorum should not be challenged but the Constitution is very clear : When a quorum is challenged the Presiding Officer either call for the quorum or if there is no quorum adjourn the House. Now it is third time. If it is happens again I shall take it that the House is not serious about it and I shall adjourn.

Let the bell be rung Now there is quorum. The hon. Member may continue his speech.

SHRI K. BASAPPA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I was dealing with the subsidy being given to the private operators, which is not at all satisfactory, and I was suggesting to the hon. Minister to consider running of mobile vans by the Department itself from the railway station to the mofussil places.

Every one of our friends on both sides was urging that efficiency is lacking. To improve efficiency I would like to suggest that every district should have a sub-division of its own of posts and telegraphs. For example, my own constituency of Chitradurga is being tagged on to another district, Tumkur. I understand, the Posts and Telegraphs Department has recommended for its separation and it is pending for the consideration of the hon. Minister. I would like to request to the hon. Minister to look into this immediately and to have a separate division for each district. Each district should have a division of its own so that efficiency could be topped up further.

I further learn that there is a short supply of higher denomination stamps, like 10. paise and 20 paise, in the mofussil. Instead of that, they give multiple of five paise stamps. I request the Ministry to look into this aspect of the short supply of higher denomination stamps in all the post offices in the mofussil places.

Coming to the telephone department, it has been urged practically by every Member of this House that there is a short supply of telephones. I do not know whether the Ministry has a programme of its own for the next 15 or 20 years for the production of telephones. We have a number of telephone industries established in the country. That means, they are not able to cope up with the demand that we are having. We have a system, called the Own Your Own Telephone System. There are several thousand applications pending for that also. Those who keep a deposit of Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 3,000 are still not able to get telephones. After all, a subscriber is interested in getting the telephone early. Therefore, I would like the Ministry to have a plan of 15 or 20 years ahead and improve the production of telephone equipment.

Coming to the trunk dialling from Bangalore to Mysore, Bangalore to Mercara and to Mangalore, Hubli and other places, we always find it very difficult. When you book a call from Bangalore to Mercara, because of heavy monsoon in the greater part of the year, we do not get connections at all ; always the line is out of order. I would suggest, to meet that kind of a deficiency, that underground cable lines can be laid in such parts of the country where this difficulty is always felt. That would be one suggestion that I would offer to the Ministry, that is, to run underground cable lines so that that difficulty can be met with.

Coming to auto exchanges, they should be there in every part of the country. I see that in some small mofussil places auto exchanges are being installed. A place like Davanagera in my constituency, which is one of the most important industrial towns in the southern region, has not got an auto exchange. I understand, the department has suggested this but it has not come into being. I would earnestly request the hon. Minister to look into this matter and see that every important

commercial towns in the country gets an auto exchange so that the business people and other persons would be very much benefited by this.

श्री रामकुमार (टोंक) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने जो मुझे डाक-तार विभाग पर बोलने का अवसर प्रदान किया, उसके लिए मैं आप का आभारी रहूँगा।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो डाक-तार का विभाग है, यह एक ऐसा विभाग है जिस में गरीब अमीर सब का वास्ता रहता है और इस विभाग से जो जनता में निराशाएँ फैली जा रही है, यह एक आश्चर्यजनक बात है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस विषय में माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन करूँगा कि आपके विभागों में जो भारी निराशाएँ पैदा हो रही है, उस में परिवर्तन और कार्य कुशलता लाना आप का मुख्य कर्तव्य है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक खास बात बताना चाहता हूँ कि जब एक मंत्री को अपना विभाग पर पूरा पूरा कार्य-कुशलता लाना और उस का ज्यादा से ज्यादा सदुपयोग करना मंत्री जी का काम कर्तव्य है, मैं मंत्री जी से निवेदन करूँगा कि टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज के जो आफिसर उन के ऊपर रहते हैं तो कहीं भी ट्रंक काल किया जाता है तो चार चार घंटे, छः छः घंटे लाईन नहीं मिलती और कभी-कभी तो ऐसा भी होता है कि हम लाईन मिला रहे हैं और टेलीफोन आफिसर कहते हैं कि तुम बात कर चुके हो। फिर भी हमारे बार-बार कहने पर भी लाईन को बन्द कर दिया जाता है। लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि उन टेलीफोन आफिसरों का ध्यान किसी दूसरी ओर ही लगा रहता है। अभी हाल ही में भूतपूर्व संसद सदस्य श्री मीठा लाल मीना, जो कि तीन महीने से दिल्ली से बाहर थे, और उन का टेलीफोन बन्द कमरे में था पर हुआ क्या, उन के टेलीफोन का बिल तीन महीने का 4,000 रुपये का भेज दिया गया। तो मंत्री महोदय जी, इस का कारण क्या है? और मैं आप को यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि जो बिजनेसमेन हैं, वे एक्सचेंज

वालों से मिले हुए होते हैं और वे टेलीफोन बन्द हैं, कलकत्ता और अन्य शहरों में करते रहते हैं और वह पैसा दूसरों के नाम डाल दिया जाता है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, गांव में टेलीफोन सुविधाएँ बहुत ही कम मात्रा में हैं यानी एक तहसील में एक ही टेलीफोन केन्द्र है। अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे निर्वाचन क्षेत्र राजस्थान, टोंक में कितने ही ऐसे बड़े-बड़े कस्बे हैं और वहाँ पर टेलीफोन सेवा चालू होना बहुत ही जरूरी है। ऐसा करने से सरकार की आमदनी बढ़ेगी और जनता की गई मांगों को भी पूरा किया जा सकेगा।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का डाकखानों की तरफ ध्यान आकर्षित करूँगा कि डाकखानों के प्रति जनता में अत्यन्त निराशाएँ पैदा होती जा रही हैं। माननीय मंत्री जी गांव में जो चिट्ठियाँ जाती हैं वे चिट्ठियाँ 15-15 दिन में भी अपने मालिकों को प्राप्त नहीं होती हैं। इस प्रकार से उस चिट्ठी का कोई तथ्य नहीं रहता है। और जो डाकखाने हैं उनमें भी अन्तर्देशीय, पोस्टकार्ड, मनीआर्डर, रजिस्ट्री फार्म भी दो-दो, चार-चार दिन नहीं मिलते हैं। इस का भी गवर्नमेंट के घाटा होने का ही लक्ष्य है। मंत्री जी, बाहर गांव में डाक देने वालों के पास 15-15, 20-20 गांव होते हैं, और उन गांवों में न कि मोटर बसें चलती हैं और वहाँ पर पैदल जा कर चिट्ठियाँ इत्यादि देनी पड़ती हैं। इस हालत में पोस्ट आफिस में डाक देने वाले की बड़ी हमदर्दी की जावे ताकि वह चिट्ठी बगैरह ठीक समय पर पहुंचा सके। माननीय मंत्री जी, विशेष कर यह हालत मेरे निर्वाचन क्षेत्र जिला टोंक में है। ऐसी हालत में जो डाक देने वाला है, उसको भी विशेष दबाव नहीं दिया जा सकता है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन करूँगा कि हर पंचायत हैडक्वार्टर पर पोस्ट आफिस खुलवाने का आदेश दें। और उन पोस्ट आफिसों में एक बाबू की नियुक्ति की जाए और वह अनपढ़ लोगों के फार्म भरने, चिट्ठी लिखने, पढ़ने की पूरी मदद कर सके। इस से गांव की ग्रामीण जनता में



[श्री रामकुंवर]

अधिक कामयाबी की सुधी होगी और साथ-साथ सरकार की आमदनी बढ़ेगी।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, डाक तार विभाग के मंत्री श्री बहुगुणा जी ने नई दिल्ली के गोल डाकखाने में कुछ दिन खुद जा कर एम्बवायरी की। उस एम्बवायरी में उन को 10-20 हजार बिट्ठियां मिलीं तो पता नहीं कितने दिनों से वहां पड़ी थीं। ऐसी हालत में देश का काम किस तरह से सुचारु रूप से चल सकता है? मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि नई दिल्ली, गोल डाकखाना के कर्मचारियों के खिलाफ क्या कोई कार्रवाई की गई है? अगर की गई है तो कितने लोगों के खिलाफ की गई है?

डाक-तार विभाग में कार्य-कुशलता लाने से जनता को अधिक लाभ होगा। मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय की ओर दिलाऊंगा। डाकखानों में भी चेंज नहीं मिलती और वहां से जनता को निराश होकर लौटना पड़ता है। अगर कोई इस का हल निकालना भी चाहता है तो वह लोगों को टिकट देता है। वे टिकट गांव के ग्रामीण लोगों के किसी भी काम में न आ कर सड़ गल या गुम हो जाती हैं। इस लिए डाकखानों में चेंज का प्रबन्ध करना मंत्री महोदय का परम कर्तव्य है। अगर सरकार हो सिक्के का इन्तजाम नहीं करेगी तो यह होगा कि उस के प्रति जनता का विश्वास नहीं रहेगा।

मैं मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करूंगा कि मैंने डाक-तार विभाग की जिन समस्याओं को अपने शब्दों में रखवा है उन को हल कर के जनता को सन्तोष दिलाया जाये। इससे सरकार की आमदनी बढ़ेगी और जनता भी विशेष सुखी रहेगी।

श्री राम भगत पासवान (रोसेरा) :  
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप का बहुत आभारी हूँ कि आप ने मुझे इस डिमण्ड पर बोलने का अवसर दिया है। यह विभाग पब्लिक सर्विस के लिए बहुत अनेस्ट है और काफी लेबर करता है। कर्मचारियों की जो समस्याएँ हैं, उनका

समाधान मैं सरकार से चाहता हूँ। तृतीय और चतुर्थ श्रेणी के जो कर्मचारी हैं उन के बच्चों के लिए बिलडन एजुकेशन एलाउन्स मिलता है, लेकिन यह प्री-यूनीवर्सिटी स्टेज तक ही मिलता है। हायर एजुकेशन के लिए नहीं मिलता। मैं सरकार से यह अनुरोध करता हूँ कि जब तक उन के बच्चे पढ़ें, उस पूरे समय तक उन को बिलडन एजुकेशन एलाउन्स मिलना चाहिए।

दूसरी समस्या हाउसिंग की है। पोस्ट-आफिस में शायद ही कहीं अपने स्वयं के मकान हों, अधिकांश मकान किराये पर हैं और उन की हालत बहुत ही खराब रहती है। कर्मचारी लोग काम करते रहते हैं, वर्षा होती रहती है और वर्षा के पानी में ही वह लोग जाते रहते हैं। कर्मचारियों के रहने की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। इस लिए मैं सरकार का ध्यान इस हाउसिंग की समस्या की ओर खींचना चाहता हूँ और कहना चाहता हूँ कि तृतीय और चतुर्थ श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों के आवास की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए।

बीरान इलाको में जो निम्न श्रेणी के कर्मचारी काम करते हैं जिन को ई०डी० स्टाफ कहा जाता है, उन की हालत बहुत दयनीय हैं। उन्हें बहुत कम तनखाह मिलती है और वह अपने बाल-बच्चों का भरण-पोषण नहीं कर सकते हैं। उन की हालत पर भी ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए।

डाक विभाग के कर्मचारियों को मेडिकल फैसिलिटी दी गई है, लेकिन उस का पैसा समय पर न मिलने से उन्हें बड़ी कठिनाई होती है और पूरी सुविधा नहीं मिल पाती है। मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि उन के वेतन के साथ ही कुछ अधिक रुपया उनको दे दिया जाय जिस से उन को बास्तब में कुछ सहायता मिल सके।

हमारे यहां बहुत से इलाके ऐसे हैं जहां पर पोस्टल सर्विसेज बहुत कम हैं और बहुत सी जगहें ऐसी हैं जहां बहुत ज्यादा हैं। तमाम बीरान इलाके हैं जहां पोस्टल सर्विसेज उपलब्ध नहीं हैं।

श्री मंत्री महोदय से आज्ञा है करना कि वह अपने डिप्टी कमल सुप्रीन्टेन्डेन्ट्स को आदेश दें कि जहाँ पर पोस्टल सर्विसेज होनी चाहिए वहाँ वह लोग अपनी निगरानी रखें और सर्वसाधारण को ये सर्विसेज उपलब्ध हों, इस की व्यवस्था करें।

श्री एम० सत्यनारायण राव (करीमनगर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, अफसोस की बात यह है कि इस विभाग के जो मंत्री हैं—श्री बहुगुणा—वह बहुत एफिशियेन्ट हैं और एफिशियेन्सी चाहते हैं, लेकिन उनके डिपार्टमेंट वाले बहुत इन-एफिशियेन्ट हैं। इस बात को मैं ही नहीं कहता, बल्कि उन की पार्टी के जो आन्ध्र प्रदेश के चीफ मिनिस्टर साहब हैं, उन्होंने जो कहा है उस को कोट करता हूँ—

Postal delay disgusts CM :

The Chief Minister Mr. K. Brahmananda Reddi, today expressed disgust at inordinate postal delay that has become common in this city. Often, he pointed out, it took three to four days for letters from Delhi to be delivered. But letters sent from here to Delhi reached their destination without delay.

"I had once complained about this to the Post-Master General also," he observed.

This is the complaint being made by your own Chief Minister.

यह हालत है आप के डिपार्टमेंट की। मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब से वह आये हैं उस के दो तीन महीने के बाद तक इस की एफिशियेन्सी बढ़ाने के वास्ते और उस पर चैक रखने के वास्ते उन्होंने क्या किया है ?

यहाँ आने के बाद पहले सेशन में भी मैंने चार-पाँच बार ट्रंक-काल करने की कोशिश की और हमेशा मुझ को 6-7 घण्टे इंतजार करना पड़ा। लेकिन एक दफा भी ट्रंक-काल नहीं मिली। जब एम० पी० की यह हालत है तब साधारण आदमियों का क्या हाल होगा ? मैंने

कहा कि मैं एम० पी० हूँ लेकिन इस के बाद भी विभागवाले कुछ नहीं करते। शहरों में आप टेलीफोन को इम्प्रूव कर रहे हैं, लेकिन वही हालत गांवों में भी होनी चाहिए। वहाँ पर पी० सी० ओफ़ जाने चाहिए। आन्ध्र प्रदेश की मेरी डिस्ट्रिक्ट में भी बहुत कम पी० सी० ओफ़ हैं। मैं आप के सामने ये चीजें इस लिए रखना चाहता हूँ कि आप कोशिश करें कि हर जिले में ज्यादा से ज्यादा पी० सी० ओफ़ हों और जनता को उन से फायदा हो। मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय, इस को करेंगे और उनकी एफिशियेन्सी को भी ठीक करेंगे।

15 hrs.

श्री बन्धूलाल चन्द्राकर (दुर्ग) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जब इस विभाग का जनता से बहुत अधिक सम्बन्ध रहता है, तभी जनता की ओर से अनेक कठिनाइयाँ सब जगह बताई जाती हैं। वह प्रकाशित भी होते हैं खास कर टेलीफोन के सम्बन्ध में। मध्य प्रदेश इतना बड़ा क्षेत्र है, वहाँ पहले तो टेलीफोन की व्यवस्था बहुत ही कम है और जहाँ थोड़ी बहुत है भी, वहाँ से टेलीफोन का सम्बन्ध मिलता नहीं। यहाँ से भोपाल को टेलीफोन कीजिये या भोपाल से रायपुर या बस्तर की कीजिये, यही कठिनाई होती है। मध्य प्रदेश का क्षेत्र बहुत बड़ा है और वहाँ सड़कें भी बहुत नहीं हैं। रेल तो बस्तर में अभी तक पहुँची ही नहीं है। बस्तर से भोपाल को टेलीफोन करें तो बरसात में तो टेलीफोन मिलता ही नहीं है, गर्मी के दिनों में भी फायदा ही कभी मिलता हो। मध्य प्रदेश में हर जगह से इसके बारे में शिकायतें सुनने में आती हैं। दुर्ग शहर जहाँ मिलाई स्टील प्लांट है वहाँ से आती हैं, भोपाल या रायपुर है या और भी जितने शहर हैं वहाँ से ऐसी शिकायतें सुनने में आती हैं। मैं आपके सामने दुर्ग शहर की बात खासतौर से रखना चाहता हूँ। इस जिले में तीन चार जगह हैं। कबचेरा है, विमैतरा है, दुर्ग है, बालोद है। अब आप टेलीफोनों की बात को देखें। विमैतरा में कुछ लोगों ने पहले वालीय टेलीफोन लिये। वहाँ से दुर्ग 37 मील दूर है। लोगों ने देखा कि

[श्री कमलकांत चन्द्राकर]

टेलीफोन सेवा अच्छी नहीं है और उनको कनेक्शन नहीं मिलता है तो उन्होंने टेलीफोन कटवाने शुरू कर दिये। इसका परिणाम यह हुआ है कि अब दो ही टेलीफोन बहाँ रह गये हैं। अब आगे चल कर यह कहा जाएगा कि आमदनी नहीं है इस वास्ते यहां टेलीफोन की व्यवस्था को कायम रखना आवश्यक या लाभदायक नहीं है। इस तरह से टेलीफोन की व्यवस्था को काट दिया जाता है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जो टेलीफोन कि बहुत दीड़ घुप कर सकते हैं, बहुत सक्रिय रहते हैं, सब जगह पहुंच जाते हैं और पहुंच सकते हैं—हालांकि इनके लिए हर स्थान पर पहुंचना सम्भव नहीं है—अनुरोध करता हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश के हर एक जिले से अगर वह स्वयं नहीं जा सकते हैं वहाँ तो रिपोर्ट मंगायेँ और देखें कि वहाँ टेलीफोन की व्यवस्था कैसी है, वहाँ कितने टेलीफोन कम हुए हैं, कितने टेलीफोन की वहाँ कमी है, कितने पहुंचने बाकी हैं, मैटीरियल-लाइज होने बाकी है।

मैं उन से प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि डाक घरों की व्यवस्था को भी वह देखें। मध्य प्रदेश में करीब 67,000 गांव हैं। बहुत दूर-दूर तक गांवों में डाकखाने नहीं हैं। अभी तक भी नहीं हैं। इनके बारे में दम पन्द्रह साल से संसद सदस्य लिखते आ रहे हैं और कहते आ रहे हैं कि यहां-यहाँ डाक घर खुलने चाहिए लेकिन अभी तक वे नहीं खुले हैं। मुझे मालूम है कि एक गांव की आबादी 3400 की है लेकिन फिर भी वहाँ पर अभी तक कोई डाकखाना नहीं है। खास तौर से बस्तर, सरगुजा, रायगढ़, रायपुर ऐसे जिले हैं जो आदिवासी जिले हैं, आदिवासी क्षेत्र हैं और वहाँ पर सड़कें तक नहीं हैं। मैं अनुरोध करता हूँ कि वहाँ कम से कम डाकखानों की व्यवस्था तो आप कर दें। इस ओर मैं प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय विशेष ध्यान दें। जहाँ सड़कों का अभाव है वहाँ कम से कम लोगों को चिट्ठियाँ तो मिल जाया करें। वहाँ लोग इंतजार कर रहे हैं कि मंत्री महोदय उस क्षेत्र में जायेंगे। अगर वह जा नहीं सकते हैं तो मैं प्रार्थना करता

हूँ कि रिपोर्ट वह मंगायेँ और यत्न लगाव कि उस क्षेत्र में कितने गांव हैं जहाँ डाकखाने नहीं हैं और कितनी दूर-दूर तक डाकखाने नहीं हैं।

कई स्थानों पर पंद्रह-पंद्रह और बीस-बीस साल से मकान किराये पर आप ने ले रखे हैं और उन में डाक घर आपने खोल रखे हैं। मुझे मालूम है कि कई डाकघर ऐसे मकानों में जोकि टूटे पड़े हैं। इसके बारे में बार-बार माँग की गई है लेकिन अधिकारियों ने कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया है। मैं अनुरोध करता हूँ कि वहाँ आप डाकखाने और डाक घर नये मकानों में ले जाने की कोशिश करें।

SHRI D. D. DESAI (Kaira): Communication is badly required, particularly when we are facing great distances on land and a certain amount of dislocation during each monsoon. India lives in villages and these require greater aid of communication. We find that villages are ill provided with even postboxes. Most of our villages are having about 500 to 1000 inhabitants. I would request the hon. Minister to provide at least postboxes in villages with 500 inhabitants and more.

Many Members have also talked about difficulties of telephones, telegrams and so forth. We know that there have been certain difficulties about coaxial cables. We have been pursuing the Ministry to establish new manufacturing plants or release manufacturing capacities to others. But unfortunately, Government have not acted upon the suggestions made year after year. In the event of the increased production of the coaxial cables being delayed, then they might consider city cables like Stalpeth and Alpeth cables for greater manufacture in this country. These are very simple to manufacture. Indigenous raw materials are available and it would be possible to manufacture these cables with indigenous machinery and know-how. Therefore, why the Government is withholding development of infra-structure which is so essential for agriculture as well as industry? It is only because the cable manufacture is restricted to public sector. Unfortunately, we find that the production made by public sector is so limited that the waiting list for new telephones and even for trunk calls by the subscribers is so large that they have to wait for an indefinite period. There are cases where people are waiting for new telephones for 10 years or so. In other countries you get it on asking, because it is a revenue item.

In the event the Government is delayed on these matters, then, the Government should release use of certain walkie-talkie and micro-wave systems. Sir, there is no difficulty in this country to manufacture them because we have certain know-how. We have facilities to manufacture solid state devices. Now devices are being made in this country and with these solid state devices it should not be difficult for us to manufacture in what we call electronic industry, the communication systems which would be fast, reduce the cost of communication, would reduce the personnel employed and the racks we have seen in telephone and other matters.

Sir, there is also the question of overseas communication. We are presently facing a certain amount of difficulties in rapid overseas communication. We are participating more and more in international endeavours particularly export trade and here again unless we are well provided with good rapid Communication from any part of India it becomes difficult to perform.

Sir, I tell you our own experience. Even with the Central Research Centre for High Tension Switch Gear it is impossible for any Indian manufacture to quickly communicate with research centre and have the feed back system by which one can have satisfactory development of High Tension Switch Gear and other *inter-se* important equipments.

I would not like to take indefinite time. But here again I would emphasise that without proper communication we are not going to progress much particularly in mass education, the developmental activities and even in our transport and other things. The other day we had the problem of wagon and other shortages here and there and so and so forth. These could be easily avoided, had we an excellent system—a net work of communication within the country. It is not necessary now to have elaborate items costing several thousands of crores. It is possible in this electronic age to do the same with much less cost. By holding back the manufacturing facilities in this country which exist, we harm ourselves. These could be better put to use. In this respect I would request the Government to keep an open mind and even encourage to the optimum level such facilities that we have in electronic industry

to offset the present backlog in communication of the country.

Sir, the last item is the manufacture of Communication equipments for international world. Here again, with our large requirements and great internal demand it should be possible for us to manufacture for self and also to cater to the international world quite a large amount of sophisticated equipments for communication systems and this if it is a part of our internal requirements, then the rates at which we can manufacture those could be a fraction of our today's cost and it should be possible for us to compete in international trade and export to them.

Thank you, Sir.

श्री नाथूराम अहिरवार (टीकमगढ़) :  
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं संचार विभाग की मांगों का समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि डाक तार विभाग में काफी अनियमिततायें हैं। और सरकार को उन पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।

सरकार की तरफ से कहा जाता है कि वह देहानी क्षेत्र में डाकखाने खोलती है। मैं बराबर 1967 से, जब कि मैं इस संसद में आया, बराबर यह कहता आ रहा हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश एक पिछड़ा हुआ प्रदेश है, जहाँ गांव पहाड़ों में बसे हुए हैं, लेकिन वहाँ पर डाकखाने नहीं हैं। सरकार का नियम है कि पांच सौ की आबादी पर डाकखाना खोला जाये, लेकिन मेरे अपने क्षेत्र बुन्देलखंड में इस नियम के अनुसार डाकखाने नहीं खोले गये हैं।

डिपार्टमेंट की पालिसी यह है कि जो डाकखाने बराबर घाटा देते हैं, अगर वहाँ की ग्राम पंचायत या गांव वाले किसी डाकखाने का पांच साल का घाटा पूरा कर दें, तो डिपार्टमेंट उस डाकखाने को ले लेता है। हमारे यहाँ डाकखाने बराबर घाटा देते जाये हैं, लेकिन डिपार्टमेंट ने अभी तक उन को अपने हाथ में नहीं लिया है।

[श्री बाबूराम]

सरकार जो डाकखाने खोलती है, उन का हस्तक्षेप वह टीचर्स को दे देती है। मध्य प्रदेश में छः महीने पक्की होती है और छः महीने स्कूलों में छुट्टी रहती है। इस लिए टीचर्स उन डाकखानों में बहुत कम रह पाते हैं, जिस की वजह से डाकखानों को घाटा होता है। गांवों में काफी पढ़े-लिखे लोग बेकार हैं। अगर उन को यह काम दे दिया जाये, तो वे ज्यादा दिलचस्पी से काम करेंगे। वे गांव के लोगों से कहेंगे कि वे सेविंग बैंक में पैसा जमा करें और मनीआर्डर से पैसा भेजें। इस प्रकार डाकखानों की आमदनी बढ़ेगी, उन को घाटा नहीं होगा और लोगों को भी सुविधा मिलेगी।

जैसा कि आप जानते हैं, बुन्देलखण्ड एक डाकूप्रस्त एरिया है। मैं बराबर मांग करता आया हूँ कि वहां पर हर पुलिस स्टेशन को डिस्ट्रिक्ट हैडक्वार्टर के साथ टेलीफोन के द्वारा कनेक्ट कर दिया जाये। वहां फोनोग्राम लगाये गये हैं, लेकिन उन से कोई मतलब हल नहीं होता है। डाकखानों के पास ऐसी कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है कि वे दो चार फ्रंलांग पर स्थित पुलिस स्टेशन में एस० पी० को या किसी अन्य सम्बद्ध अधिकारी को सूचित करें कि फलां जगह डकैती हुई है। इस लिए यह आवश्यक है कि टीकमगढ़, छतरपुर, पन्ना, सागर और दमोह में पुलिस स्टेशनों और डिस्ट्रिक्ट हैडक्वार्टर के बीच में टेलीफोन सम्बन्ध स्थापित किया जाये। वर्तमान व्यवस्था में डाकूओं को अपने भेदियों से पता चल जाता है कि पुलिस फोर्स आने वाली है। इस लिए जहां फोनोग्राम व्यवस्था है, वहां पी० सी० ओ० बनाये जाने चाहिए।

अगर मैं टीकमगढ़ से भोपाल के साथ बात करना चाहूँ, तो नहीं कर सकता हूँ। टीकमगढ़ से ललितपुर 36 मील है। कोई व्यक्ति ललितपुर जा कर भोपाल से टेलीफोन पर बात कर सकता है, लेकिन टीकमगढ़ से सीधे भोपाल के साथ बात नहीं कर सकता है, क्योंकि टीकमगढ़ का भोपाल से डायरेक्ट कनेक्शन नहीं है।

इस लिए यह जरूरी है कि न केवल मध्य प्रदेश में, बल्कि देश भर में, हर एक डिस्ट्रिक्ट हैडक्वार्टर को प्रदेश की राजधानी के साथ टेलीफोन के द्वारा जोड़ा जाये। इस से प्रशासन में सुविधा होगी और काम जल्दी हो सकेगा।

मैं बराबर कहता आ रहा हूँ कि टीकमगढ़ और भोपाल के बीच में सीधा सम्बन्ध नहीं है। टीकमगढ़ से ललितपुर 36 मील है। वहां तक सम्बन्ध है। लेकिन ललितपुर और बीना के बीच में टेलीफोन लाइन नहीं है। अगर ललितपुर और बीना के बीच में लाइन लगा दी जाये, तो टीकमगढ़ का भोपाल से सम्बन्ध हो सकता है। जतारा तहसील हैडक्वार्टर है और जतारा से भोपाल 17 मील है। अगर वह 17 मील का टुकड़ा जोड़ दिया जाये, तो सीधे रीवा से बात हो सकती है। इस वक्त टीकमगढ़ से ललितपुर, झांसी, इलाहाबाद होने हुये रीवा से वान हो सकती है। इस वक्त बहुत लम्बा चक्कर काटना पड़ता है। डिपार्टमेंट को इस काम को तुरन्त हाथ में लेना चाहिए। इस से जनता को भी सुविधा होगी और डिपार्टमेंट को भी लाभ होगा।

झांसी में आर० एम० एस० डिवीजन का आफिस है। मैंने देखा है कि अधिकतर गाड़ियों में मेलवैन नहीं होता है बल्कि एक थर्ड क्लास के डिब्बे को मेलवैन बना दिया जाता है। वहां लाइट और पंखा नहीं होता है। कर्मचारियों को लालटेन की रोजनी में सार्टिंग का काम करना पड़ता है, जिस से लखनऊ की चिट्ठी उन्नाव चली जाती है। इस तरह डाकखानों के विरुद्ध शिकायतें होती हैं। अगर गाड़ियों में बाकायदा मेलवैन लगाया जाये, जिन में सार्टिंग के लिए केस हों, तो सार्टिंग में इस प्रकार की गलती नहीं हो सकती है। डिपार्टमेंट को अपने कर्मचारियों की तकलीफ की तरफ ध्यान देना चाहिए।

झांसी में आर० एम० एस० के आफिस से कम से कम दो सौ गज की दूरी पर लैंड्रिन और बाथरूम हैं। अगर कर्मचारी बीमे या दूसरी वैल्युएबल चीजों का सार्टिंग कर रहे हों, तो उन्हें उन को बीच में छोड़ कर लैंड्रिन या बाथरूम जाना पड़ता है। जब डिपार्टमेंट को

इतना फायदा होता है, तो क्या वह अपने कर्मचारियों के लिए उपयुक्त स्थान पर लैट्रिन और बाथरूम नहीं बना सकता है? कर्मचारियों ने बराबर यह मांग की है, लेकिन कोई सुनता नहीं है।

डिपार्टमेंट को अपने कर्मचारियों की सुविधाओं की तरफ ध्यान देना चाहिए। स्प्लिट इयूटी वाले कर्मचारी सुबह पांच छः बजे जाड़े में ठिठुरते हुए साइकल पर दो मील से आते हैं। बाबू चिट्ठियाँ छांटता है और पोस्टमैन उनको लेकर जाता है। अगर डाकखाने के पास ही कर्मचारियों के क्वार्टर बने हों, तो उन को इतनी दूर से क्यों आना पड़े? डिपार्टमेंट का अपने कर्मचारियों के लिए डाकखानों के पास ही रहने की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए।

कर्मचारियों के लिए कोई चिकित्सा की सुविधा भी उपलब्ध नहीं की गई है। अगर कोई कर्मचारी बीमार पड़ जाये, तो उस को प्राइवेट डाक्टर को पांच रुपये देकर झूठा सर्टिफिकेट लेना पड़ता है और तब उस को छुट्टी मिल पाती है। इस लिए कर्मचारियों के लिए मेडिकल फैमिलिटीज की व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिए। जब डिपार्टमेंट अपने कर्मचारियों से पूरे काम की उम्मीद करता है, तो फिर उन्हें उचित सुविधायें भी दी जानी चाहिए। अगर वे लोग ठीक ढंग से नहीं रह पाते हैं, तो वे अच्छा काम कैसे करेंगे?

इसी तरह कर्मचारियों के बच्चों के लिए शिक्षा की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। उन की इयूटी इस प्रकार की होती है कि उस के लिए अपने बच्चों को स्कूल में भर्ती कराना तक कठिन हो जाता है। जब इस डिपार्टमेंट का एक कर्मचारी सुबह पांच छः बजे इयूटी पर जाता है, तो उस के बच्चे सोये होते हैं। जब वह दोपहर बारह बजे खाने के लिए आता है, तो बच्चे स्कूल में होते हैं और जब वह रात को आठ बजे लौटता है, तो वे सो रहे होते हैं। इस प्रकार सिवाये इतवार के बच्चों को पता नहीं रहता कि उन के पिता कहाँ हैं। इस लिए सरकार को कर्मचारियों

के इयूटी आवर्ज में उचित परिवर्तन करना चाहिए।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इन मांगों का समर्थन करता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Minister wants about half an hour. I shall call him at 4. p.m. ; we shall conclude this discussion by 4:30 and the demands would then be put to vote.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO (Mahendragarh) ; We are discussing the demands of a very important Ministry. From the way work is increasing and employment in this Ministry is increasing, we should have expected that the Government also would attach due importance to the Ministry of Communications. We find that this Ministry was a short while ago headed by a Minister of the Cabinet rank and two young and energetic Ministers of State but this is now headed only by a Minister of State. It appears that the importance of this Ministry in the eyes of the Government is decreasing in proportion to the deterioration of the conditions of work in that Ministry. Judging from the inefficiency, corruption and the breach of public trust prevailing in the P & T this is one Ministry whose demands should be truthfully opposed in a full throated voice, vehemently by every section of the House.

15.19 hrs

[SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL in the Chair]

We have seen Members of Parliament belonging to the Treasury Benches always starting with congratulations to the Minister for the good work that his Ministry was doing and then there was long indictment of the inefficiency of the Ministry. Corruption and everything else was mentioned. There is no single Member in this House who can place his hand in his heart and say that he has not suffered at the hands of the P & T Department.

Do we not make trunk calls on the telephone every day? Even for small calls for short distance stations we have to wait for days. Just now, an hon. Member of this House sitting next to me was telling me about the working of this department. He tried to



[Shri Birender Singh Rao]

make a call to Akola. He tried one day, the second day, the third day, the fourth day, and the fifth day, and always the reply was that the line was out of order. It happens like that every day. For all these small stations the lines are out of order at least for 20 days in a month. I know it from personal experience, and I can give an instance. I even started keeping a register to note down when the lines are out of order. If this is the condition prevailing here, what about the postal department ?

Who does not know that letters are received at times several days after they were posted, and there is no guarantee that they will always be delivered ? The inefficiency can be seen even from the fact that their postmarks are not legible on the cards and envelopes. Even telegrams are not legible. They try to hide things. It is very important that a person should know when the letter was posted and on what date it was delivered. But now they have even stopped putting the delivery postmark on the letters—only to hide their inefficiency.

Apart from that, there are many other ugly things. We never thought that a department having a public trust of dealing with the common people will be politically used. We have known that even in the last mid-term poll, electric connections cut off, power was shut off for the poor farmers, because they would not vote for the Congress candidates. Even today, we had read in the newspapers that a certain Chief Minister went to a particular constituency and promised to upgrade so many schools on the spot. He managed the defection of an MLA of the Vishal Haryana Party. But we could never think that the postal department could be used for this purpose. I would give an instance.

The predecessor of my hon. friend, the Minister, who is sitting there,—he was a Minister of State—contested from Jhajjar constituency. There is a village in that constituency, named Lilaheeri. He went to that village for canvassing. The people refused to support him. He threatened that their post-office will be closed if they did not vote for him. They came to me and I told the people that they were paying—(Interruption)

AN HON. MEMBER : No.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO : Are you the Minister in charge ? or were you there in the Ministry then ? (Interruption)  
I know you.

The fact remains that we never imagined that this sort of thing would happen in a free country. But it is a fact, and you can make enquiries. I hope the hon. Minister would make an enquiry and set things right. That post-office which had been working for three years in that village was closed at the end of the election only because the people did not support the Minister. If it comes to that, next time we may find that the postmen will be instructed not to deliver the letters to the people who do not support a particular Minister or the Congress candidate. It will also come to this : that the government will decide to close the railway stations in villages or towns where the people did not support the ruling party. This is a free country. Can we imagine anywhere, outside this largest democracy in the world, that a free country would tolerate a thing like this ? No. We see police head constables sitting in post-offices day-in and day-out only to open mails of all political opponents of the people in power. This censorship—is this right ? Has it any legal sanction ? Is it allowed under our Constitution ? If you take a country like America, even for criminals the telephone lines cannot be tapped unless there is an order of federal judge, and that also for a limited number of days. Why talk about me ? Many Minister and MPs know that their lines are tapped and telephone conversation listened to by CID men sitting in exchanges. I used to get letters very late because I happened to be on the wrong side of the Government in Haryana. I started sending my men to the post office to see what was happening. All my mail was sorted but and handed over to a head constable. When I objected, the postmaster started carrying the mail to the head constable's house in the evening !

Corruption is rampant in this department. Where is the efficiency ? Right under the nose of the Government, things are happening in Delhi which should not happen, if there is really a minister in charge of it. Now we have a new youngman minister in charge and we hope he would do something about it. Earlier there was an old man as minister-in-charge and this was his private preserve. Either he would be kept as minister without portfolio or if he insisted on a portfolio, this was the ministry

that used to be given to him, because it was not considered so important!

In Delhi, there is a system of priorities for sanctioning telephones to doctors, legislators, political parties, etc. I applied about two years ago for a telephone connection. I was a legislator as well as the President of a recognised political party. The General Manager wrote to me asking whether I wanted it for the party or for myself in my name. I said, it was for my party. I thought one of the two would be given to me on a priority basis. But it is now more than 1½ years and I have got nothing. I was told by some people in the department that if I paid Rs. 600, I can get priority. This is happening here. Let the minister institute an enquiry and screen the subscribers in Delhi who have telephone on priority basis. Most of them do not deserve it; they are not covered by any category. Just because they happened to pay Rs. 600, they got priority fixed up within three days.

I am an MP and I applied on 13th May for a telephone at my house in Delhi. I am entitled to it. If I did not get it I am not getting what I am supposed to get under the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act. It was given to me only after several reminders were sent from the Lok Sabha Secretariat. On the same day, I applied for a telephone at my village home. It is more than 1½ months and still no telephone has been fixed in spite of telegrams from the Lok Sabha Secretariat to the people in charge that it must be done. They are dealing with MPs like this and yet people are talking about the efficiency of the department. I suggest that this department should be controlled and most of the work which should not be with this department should be taken out of it. For instance, small savings accounts. Now banks have been nationalised. What is the use of post offices doing the same thing giving lesser interest? Once a person puts in something in a post office, he would even make a will to his children that they should never go to a post office for opening an account. It is very cumbersome and difficult. This Department, if measured in terms of inefficiency, corruption and breach of trust, I think, deserves to be called public enemy number one and it has to be pulled up. I am sure the new Minister who is a youngman and has

great zeal and enthusiasm will try and see that when next time we meet here there is genuine appreciation of the work of this Department.

\*SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA (Eluru): Madam Chairman, the hon. speaker who preceded me, Shri Birendra Singh, has narrated his personal experience in connection with this Ministry. Probably he might have taken part in the freedom movement during the British rule in this country. He might have experienced the same thing at that time. Any Government would do this in order to check the various unlawful activities whether they are committed by a small or big man. He was the Chief Minister of Haryana. In order to safeguard the peace and security in his State he might have asked the State CID department to do the same. It is the duty of any Government to check such unlawful activities. In order to know the person or persons who are at the back of such activities the Government resorts to such methods. There is nothing wrong in it. As long as he was the Chief Minister, he probably thought that there was nothing wrong if the Government resorted to such methods. It appears that he is mentioning all these things merely to criticise the Government just because he happens to be in the Opposition now.

Shri Bahuguna, as the name indicates, possesses several sterling qualities though he is new to this Ministry. He was the General Secretary of the Congress Party and was responsible for its good performance in various fields. The Prime Minister has done a good thing in selecting a man of the calibre of Shri Bahuguna to be the Minister in charge of this Ministry. I am sure he would live upto the confidence reposed in him and run this Ministry to the satisfaction and benefit of the people at large.

In 1954 when there was criticism against the working of this Ministry, late Pt. Nehru handed over this Ministry to late Shri Kadwai. As soon as he took over, Shri Kidwai geared up the Ministry and streamlined its working. The people also got many new facilities. One of such facilities was the night mail service. Another good feature was the introduction of the Mobile Post offices. Because of that we started posting mail even on Sundays.

\*The original speech was delivered in Telugu.

[Shri K. Suryanarayana]

Even though, for some time past, we do not receive letters on Sundays, this Ministry, by and large, introduced several facilities for the common man. We hope that this Ministry would always bear in mind the convenience of the common man and would introduce as many new services as possible.

In this country whenever there is an agitation, the first victim is the Railways and the second victim is the Postal department. In the present times, people who take part in agitational politics have the mentality of cutting communication lines in order to draw the attention of the Government to their cause. Therefore, it is the duty of the Government to censor mail in order to forestall such anti-social activities. If there is a genuine grievance against the Government on this account it may be brought to the notice of the Government; but it is not correct to condemn the Government because of political differences. We all feel that if in the performance of its duty, the Government resorts to censorship of the letters of one or two persons, there is nothing wrong in it.

In 1932, Mahavir Singh and Dutt who were involved in a case along with Shri Bhagat Singh were deported to Andamans. Before deportation we were together in the jail. After my release, I wrote a letter to them in the jail. Because of that, the Police Department was after me for a year and the Government was censoring all my letters during that period. The British Government was right in doing so and I had no grudge against it. We were not afraid of the Government censoring our letters because we were ready to make any sacrifice in the service of the country. We knew that we did our duty and the Government did its own. Therefore, we should not respect the motives of the Government. We should also not charge the Government of directing this censorship against one particular party or person. As far as possible, we must give constructive suggestions to the Government so that the Ministry can serve the people better.

If the Government does not censor the mail and watch the activities of certain anti-social elements, it would not be able to check the spread of Naxalism from Naxalbari to Srikakulam. If Rao Birendra Singh were to

be in the Government he would have done the same in order to maintain law and order in the country.

Coming to the Posts and Telegraphs Department, I would say that it is a very efficient department. But still we would criticise the inefficiency of a few individuals in the Department. It is normal. The Government should look into individual cases of inefficiency. There are flaws here and there. For example the Government introduced the facility of phonograms. The Telephone operators do not try to follow our English pronunciation. I found it is easier to take a taxi and go to the telegraph office for this purpose than to make telephone operators, particularly in Delhi, to follow and understand our English pronunciation. The Government should try to remove this difficulty. My submission is that we should cooperate with the Government and the department so that they can serve the people better, rather than question the good intentions of the Government. We must always try to improve this department so that the common man may get efficient service from this department.

The merchant community and the chamber of commerce of West Godavari District have submitted an application to the Government. There was a Post and Telegraph Office situated near the Commercial Centre at Eluru. Because of the increase in the number of telegrams a separate Telegraph Office was established at a distance of two to three miles from that place. They wanted the Government to keep the Telegraph Office attached to the Post Office open for 24 hours. But on the contrary, because of the establishment of a separate Telegraph Office at a distance, the working time of the telegraph office attached to the Post Office has been reduced. As a result, if anybody wants to send a telegram beyond the working hours of the main Post Office, they have to travel a distance of three miles. The Government has not yet sent a reply to that application. I do not know what the Government is doing or proposing to do in this connection.

Another point I would like to make is that the town of Eluru is the headquarters of the West Godavari district. There are several rice mills and one or two jute mills situated there. The population of the town is around one lakh fifty thousands. The postal em-

ployees in that town requested the Government for the establishment of a divisional office in the town. I also request that, in view of the reasons mentioned above, the Government should establish a divisional office there.

I would like to state a personal experience of mine and conclude my speech. We got the telephone installed in our house only after 19th of March after we were sworn in as members here. The department had disconnected our telephones before that date even though I had written to them requesting them not to do so. Before disconnecting the phone from 21st December to 29th December, 70 the telephone department have billed me for 3000 local calls. They have deducted the charges from my salary bills. They have not bothered to enquire and verify from me about the number of local calls made within that period. The net result was that I did not get a pie from my salary bill. There was no need for me to make as many as 3000 local calls within the period from 21st December to 29th December 1970. I wrote a letter on 2nd May to the Officer Incharge in this connection. The Department wrote to me saying that they would check up and return any money wrongly charged after verification. Mistakes like this can occur now and then but we must try to rectify them.

Next to the railways, this department provides an essential service to a common man. A ten paise-post card can get you the news of welfare of your kith and kin, however distantly their place may be situated. I am not denying the occurrence of mistakes here and there. There may be some matters which are beyond rectification but we must always try to increase the efficiency of postal services as much as possible. There may be a few cases where some erring official might have accepted six hundred rupees as bribe and given telephone connection. It should be our endeavour to check such instances. I feel proud to say that this is one department where instances of corruption are very few. If you compare the functioning of this department with any other department of Government of India, I would give a very high rating to this department in so far as its efficiency and functioning are concerned. My feeling is that there may be one case of corruption or misappropriation in a million dealings. But for a few stray cases, we cannot condemn the whole department.

I would suggest that every district headquarters should be connected with the State capital by telephone directly. Not only that, the classification of trunk telephone calls as urgent or ordinary should be abolished. It is my personal experience that I could not talk on trunk telephone to a person in Delhi for three days from my place. It is so because priority calls take precedence over ordinary call. I therefore suggest that this distinction of urgent, immediate or ordinary calls should be abolished. I would suggest to you to increase the efficiency of telephone department so that everybody can take advantage of the trunk telephone service without any delay. I suggest that the Government should increase the network of telephone exchanges in the country and win the appreciation and goodwill of the people.

Shri Bahuguna is a very efficient Minister and is a very efficient party leader. I would conclude my speech by submitting that I would reserve my congratulations to the Minister till next year when he would come before this House after doing a good job in this department for a year.

**SHRI SHANKARRAO SAVANT (Kolaba):** Madam, the Posts and Telegraphs Department is the only Department which approaches practically every house in the country. It had a good reputation in the past but, somehow or other, it has fallen into disrepute during recent days.

Now, I have got one personal experience, I come from Mahad in Kolaba District. At our place in Mahad, for nearly 22 days in a month, the telegraph and telephone lines go out of order and even when we make complaints, they are not attended to. Similarly, what we find is that persons in Bombay who apply for telephone connections, have to wait for as much as two or three years to get a connection. These state of affairs must go and since the telephone and telegraphs are the harbingers of a new age, we must see that all those who pay for it, get the services at the earliest.

Secondly, I have to make a special complaint about my constituency. In Kolaba District, as I stated, there are occasions for the telephone lines going out of order. Then, our Kolaba District is not joined by telephone either to Satara or Ranagiri district which

[Shri Shankarrao Savant]

are very near to us. If we have to make a telephone call to Khed which is only 35 miles away, we have to send it *v/a* Bombay, a distance of nearly 200 miles. If only there is a link between Mahad and Khed, it can then reach in 10 minutes, but, now it takes six hours. All these complaints must be attended to.

Thirdly, there is a complaint about the rural telegraph offices. Government have set up Rural Telegraph Offices at roadside places. Then, they charge the Panchayat Samitis some amount of compensation if there is not sufficient work. They say that the villagers should pay for it. Sir, this, being a public utility service, the Government should not pass on the loss on this account to the village bodies. Once you give a Telegraph office, then, supposing there is not enough work, there is no reason why you should ask the villagers or the Gram Panchayats to pay compensation to the Government. This compensation sometimes runs into hundreds of rupees. At least in a socialist society, this should not happen. It may even run into thousands of rupees. That system must be immediately stopped. This is a public utility service. You may be gaining in one place and losing in another place. On the whole whether you gain or lose, you have to see the convenience of the public. You should open new offices in the rural areas without asking them to pay compensation. To penalise the rural area is absolutely unsocialistic. The Government is a socialist Government and they should not penalise rural areas. They say, if they open number of offices, there will not be enough work throughout the year. But this is no excuse.

Therefore, my request to the new Minister in charge is this. This question of getting penalty or compensation as they call it from villagers or village panchayats must be stopped immediately.

Direct dialling should be introduced between capitals of States and capitals of districts. At present we have direct dialling from Bombay to Poona. We should have such direct dialling between capitals of States and capitals of districts and that will give better income to the department. If there are 5 calls under the present system if you introduce direct dialling there will be 50 calls, 10 times

more. It means more money and better service. So, direct dialling should be introduced wherever possible.

With these words I support the demand for this Ministry. I fervently request the Minister in charge that he should look into the grievances from the rural areas and try to remove those grievances which have been ventilated in this august House. Thank you.

श्री राम धन (लालगंज) : मान्यवर, स्वतंत्रता प्राप्ति के बाद संचार व्यवस्था का काफी विस्तार हुआ है। परन्तु इस विभाग से जिस कार्यकुशलता की हम अपेक्षा करते थे वह नहीं देखी जा रही है। हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश में बहुत से कम्बाइन्ड आफिसेज स्वीकृत हुए हैं मगर सामानों की कमी का बहाना लेकर के उन को खोला नहीं जा रहा है, विस्तार नहीं किया जा रहा है। ऐसे ही तारघर और डाकघर स्वीकृत हुए हैं लेकिन पता नहीं किन कारणों से ठीक से विस्तार नहीं हो पा रहा है। कुछ सदस्यों ने कहा कि मार्बजनिक् क्षेत्र में तार आदि का निर्माण होता है, अगर निजी क्षेत्र में होने लगे तो यह कमी शायद दूर हो सकेगी। हमारे बहुत से इंजीनियर बेकार पड़े हुए हैं यदि उन को इस काम में लगाया जाय, सरकार उन्हें प्रोत्साहित करे, तो सामान की कमी पूरी हो सकती है। बड़ी मशीनों को छोड़ कर।

यह विभाग बहुत ईमानदार माना जाता रहा है। लेकिन इसमें भी अब छ्रष्टाचार का प्रवेश हो गया है। गांवों के डाकघरों की बात मैं आप को बताता हूँ कि वहां पर मनीआर्डर जो गरीबों के, हरिजनों और आदिवासियों के आते हैं वह रुपया बांच पोस्ट मास्टर सूद पर चला देते हैं और जिन का मनीआर्डर होता है उन बेबारों को पैसा नहीं मिलता। जब भेजने वाले की तरफ से खोजबीन होती है तब जा कर के मनीआर्डर मिलता है। ऐसे मामले भी हुए हैं कि मनीआर्डर का गबन हो जाता है।

टेलीफोन के कनेक्शन आदि की भी वही अवस्था है कि जो लोग पैसा देते हैं उन्हें कनेक्शन

जल्दी बिल खाता है और जो लोग पैसा नहीं देते उनको कनेक्शन नहीं मिलता। ऐसे ही ट्रंककाल की बात है। जो भ्यावसायी होते हैं उनका ट्रंककाल बहुत जल्दी हो जाता है और साधारण व्यक्तियों के ट्रंक काल नहीं मिल पाते। इस तरह की खराबी इस विभाग में आ गयी है।

एक बात मंत्री महोदय ध्यान में रखें कि इस विभाग में जितना भ्रष्टाचार फैला है उसको जांच का काम सी० बी० आई० को दिया जाता है। जांच करने पर जितना खर्च आता है वह उससे कहीं अधिक होता है जितने का भ्रष्टाचार नहीं होता है। सी० बी० आई० पर डाक तार विभाग ने बहुत पैसा खर्च किया है और उससे उतना फायदा नहीं हुआ है। इसलिए मरा सुझाव है कि भ्रष्टाचार के मामलों की जांच करने के लिए कोई विभागीय एजेन्सी होनी चाहिए जिग में जो भ्रष्टाचार विभाग में फैला है वह कम खर्च में दूर हो सके।

माननीय रफी अहमद किदवाई ने जो उदाहरण पेश किया था उस पर अगर मंत्री महोदय चले तो बहुत दृढ़ तक भ्रष्टाचार को दूर कर सकते हैं। वह अचानक जा कर बिना बताये जा करके डाकखानों और तरघरों की जांच किया करते थे भेष बदलकर। बहुत दिनों तक गुप्तवास भी किया करते थे। इसलिए मंत्री जी अचानक जांच करने की परम्परा चलाये तो विभाग में सुधार हो सकता है।

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि अनुसूचित जातियों और अनुसूचित आदिम जातियों के लिए एक सैल घोला गया है वह देखने के लिए कि सेवाओं में उनको उचित स्थान मिलता है कि नहीं। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि देहाती क्षेत्रों में ऐम्प्लॉयमेंट कमीशनरी होते हैं जिनको आंशिक रूप में वेतन दिया जाता है। उनमें भी इन आदिम जाति के लोगों का पूरा कोटा नहीं होता है। यदि इन जातियों के लोगों को ई० डी० पोस्ट आफिस में ग्रान्ज पोस्ट ऑफिस की जगह दी जाय तो बहुत प्रयत्न कर रहे कर अच्छा

काम कर सकते हैं बनिस्वत और लोगों के जिले को कि ई० डी० का काम दिया जाता है।

अब मैं पूर्वी जिलों के बारे में कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ। उत्तर प्रदेश के पूर्वी जिले सबैव उपेक्षित रहे हैं, चाहे रेल गाड़ी का मामला रहा हो और चाहे डाक तार विभाग का मामला हो। यहां कभी भी लाइन नहीं मिलती है। जब माननीय शेर सिंह जी मंत्री थे तो उन्होंने उत्तर प्रदेश के पी० एम० जी०, निदेशक और डायरेक्टर को बुलाकर अपने बंगले पर एक मीटिंग की थी जिसमें इन अधिकारियों ने वायदा किया था मंत्री महोदय के सामने कि हम दो, तीन महीने में ताबे की टेलीफोन लाइन को अन्तुनियम के तार की लाइन बना देंगे ताकि तार की चोरी न हो। लेकिन अभी तक कोई कार्यवाही नहीं हुई। अगर 25 मील की लाइन बना कर बनारस से जोड़ दी जाय तो आजमगढ़ का भला हो सकता है। लेकिन विभाग सीधा काम न करके चुमा कर नाक पकड़ने की कोशिश करता है। लालगंज से चौलापुर की 25 मील की लाइन को जोड़ दिया जाय तो आजमगढ़ की समस्या दूर हो सकती है। सी० डेढ़ सौ मील की दूरी पर कहीं न कहीं लाइन खराब रहेगी लेकिन यह जो 25 मील का एरिया लाल गंज और चौलापुर के बीच का है, जहां पर टेलीफोन के खम्भे हैं, अगर इनको टेलीफोन के तारों से कनेक्ट कर दिया जाए तो आजमगढ़ की जो समस्या है, वह दूर हो सकती है। ऐसी ही बलिया, जौनपुर और दूसरे पूर्वी जिलों की समस्या है।

श्री सरजू पांडे (गाजीपुर) : गाजीपुर का भी वही हाल है।

श्री राम धन : गाजीपुर भी महीनों नहीं मिलता। इस तरह से पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के जो जिले हैं, वे उपेक्षित हैं। उनके बारे में मैं यहां पर बिस्तार से नहीं कहना चाहता, क्योंकि समय मंही है। हमारे माननीय बहुशुणा जी उत्तर प्रदेश के मंत्री हैं... (अवधान) उत्तर प्रदेश के निवासी हैं और भारत सरकार के मंत्री हैं।

समीक्षा अर्थात् अंबे आंय खर्च करे सौ अच्छा हो।



श्री राम धन : आप भी कुछ उत्तर प्रदेश की पक्ष लीजिए।

सभापति महोदय : अब बकत हो गया, आप बतल कीजिए।

श्री राम धन : इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहूंगा कि उत्तर प्रदेश जो सारे देश में पिछड़ा हुआ प्रदेश है, कम से कम संचार विभाग के मामले में कुछ प्रगति लाने की कोशिश कीजिए।

हमारे वहां आजमगढ़ में जो डाक तार विभाग है, डिबीजन है, उस में आर० एम० एस० के सुपरिन्टेण्डेंट को ला कर रख दिया है और आजमगढ़ और बलिया दोनों को मिला कर एक डिबीजन बनाया है। उनको आर० एम० एस० का अनुभव है...

सभापति महोदय : अब आप मेहरबानी कर के बैठ जाइए।

श्री राम धन : एक आखरी वाक्य कहना चाहता हूँ। उन का पिछली बार तबादला हो गया था लेकिन न मालूम विभाग ने उनको क्यों रोक दिया है। मैं चाहूंगा कि इन बातों पर माननीय मंत्री पूरी तरह से ध्यान दें।

16 hrs.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : Madam Chairman, I am beholden to the House and Hon'ble Members who have taken keen interest in the debate and given me suggestions about the Ministry of Communications and the working of P & T Department. I am also grateful to those who have waited here to keep the quorum on so that Mr. Kaehwai does not raise the question of quorum and we are able to discuss this demand.

Madam, this Department as has been said is one of the most deeply concerned with the totality of our population and even concerned with the rest of the world. It is one of those Departments of Government of India which comes in direct touch with the remotest corner of the country and therefore is always under test and trial.

My friends have advised me on liberalisation; I do not have enough time to go through much of the items suggested here but so far as the approach of this Department to labour problem is concerned, I have clearly made it known that we are for the working class unity and that we do not want division in the working class. One of our friends opposite tried to suggest that we had created a second federation and therefore we should wind up that federation and therefore the unity of the working class should be restored. Experienced trade unionist like Mr. Banerjee would agree with me that it is not so easy to do, to wind up that organisation and we have in fact no capacity to wind up any organisation. Lot of bad blood existed between the two federations and it was with great persuasion that two sat together with me to sort out this problem of Trade Union unity. With good-will on all hands and proper encouragement by the other side in the right direction it would be possible for us to establish once more in the P & T a united trade union movement to which all of us look forward with keen interest.

As far as I am concerned, I would treat that event as a red letter day in my life, that is if I could bring about that unity I will, however, spare no effort to such an end.

One of our friends opposite said that I went to Gol Dakkhana and found out some letters undelivered. I do not know whether he was praising me or complaining.

SHRI S M BANERJEE : Praising.

SHRI H N. BAHUGUNA : The hon member, Shri Rattanlal Brahman, who spoke in Nepalese was complaining that whereas I found out that there were arrears and dak had not been delivered, I did not bother to see how many persons were absent on that day. I must say with a full sense of responsibility that the postal employees have to learn to be less absent. Absenteeism in the postal department is one of our greatest problems. I hope the other side will, in public interest, pull its weight with the working class to realise that a duty done is a prize in itself and that right follows duty. As far as I am concerned, I am with the workers for all their rights, but in matters like arranged leave and holidays in order to earn a little more over time, we cannot take a lenient view. This is the only department

where overtime need not be worked for ; it is just earned. On the telegraph side, in regard to what a telegraphist will get is 70 hours overtime but, if you calculate the total work and the total paid for these hours, the two will not tally. Yet there is overtime. I have known about overtime for work done beyond duty hours. But in the postal department, this is a perpetual malady and most of it is because there is a round-time arrangement and things are managed. There is also some responsibility resting on the workers in bringing about normalcy in this regard. I only hope that the other side will help us, and everybody will help us, to instil in the working force of the post and telegraph employees that sense of responsibility which has been there in a great measure but which has, of late, been corroded, specially during the last three or four years for many reasons, into which I need not go. Once we are able to restore that confidence which existed between the employees and the organisation, that is, the P & T Board, I hope it should be possible for us to give more efficient service to the people.

There have been complaints made about our functioning and these can broadly be divided into three or four heads. One is that we have not developed the entire country evenly in matters of tele-communication. Here we are conditioned by the funds available, the necessary cable and machine we should have to carry the voice from one end to the other. We have our Indian Telephone Industries. I was happy to hear from my friend who was a tele-communication engineer that we have reached the 50,000 line capacity on the cross bar exchange production. But I must warn him that we have not ; we have not gone beyond the 40,000 line capacity so far. We should by now have 100,000 lines every year ; but we have not been able to do it. Consequently we do not have enough equipment to replace the outmoded equipment to bring about automatic exchanges and to link up the new lines and new places.

Similarly, the cable has another very sad story. The tele-communication department has two suppliers : one is the Indian Telephone Industries and the other the Teleprinter factory, both public sector undertakings, on the machine side. On the cable side, there is the Hindustan Cables, Rupraipur. This unfortunately has not been able to pick up production. This

factory also produced only 40 per cent of its rated capacity. Instead of having 100 yards cable I got every year 40 yards and instead of 100,000 lines exchange equipment, I have only 40,000 lines equipment. Therefore, my performance could not be higher than forty per cent. Moreover funds available with us, with all the imports done and all the other sources tapped, are very meagre.

A lot of complaints were made about the working of telephones. But we have to see under what circumstances we are working. I invite the Members of Parliament to be good enough to visit the Delhi exchange in groups of five or seven ; we should very much welcome them and make arrangements to take you around and see things for themselves. It is a very difficult job that the girls handle. All of them sit close by each other and a lot of howling noise is on and they are disturbed and it is not easy to work. But they are doing their work there because our present accommodation is not in keeping with our needs ; it is not enough. We are having a new building and I am sure that when we go over to that building it should be easier for us to manage things. This has been done over the last few years but the development has not been adequate on the building side to meet our requirements. So far as the workers' quarters are concerned, I plead guilty to the charge that we have not done our duty and it is my feeling that the postal department could have done something more for the employees, in the shape of more quarters, which we have not been able to do, but which, I assure this House, will be our effort to do now, with greater speed than before.

It is true that on the tele-communications side a line is down for seven days. What is the situation ? We have either overhead wires or coaxial cables or microwave. About overhead wire, I am sorry to say that my own State, U. P. leads in the theft of copper wire ; Bihar is second only. Thieves have on their priority list our wires as their first priority and for processionists telephone wires and post offices are the first charge of their errand. We are always open to this situation. Telephone wires are cut. Post offices are burnt. One suggestion was to change from copper to aluminium. It is easily said. Where is the aluminium ? I am a purchaser ; the Director General of Supplies and Disposals has got the demands of his Ministry and during the last three years we have not been able to get a

[Shri H. N. Bahuguna]

yard of aluminium wire. We go through him to the market, whereas the Electricity Boards of States purchase a lot of aluminium wire direct from the market at a much higher price than we can do. We are on the rated list and there is a rate contract between the DGSD and the user and we have to go through that process. I explained how the State electricity boards are able to get ACSR while I do not get. Now, I have substituted iron wire.

SHRI D. D. DESAI : How much wire do you require ?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : If my friend can give me at the rates approved by the DGSD we can talk that over tomorrow and we can purchase for Rs. 100,000 or Rs. 200,000, as he likes. It can be done as early as he likes. I am a purchaser.

Now, so far as that particular story is concerned, I will give an example. Hapur to Bulandshahr overhead line was cut down ; we had no wire and so we put the steel wire. The conductivity of steel wire is the lowest. It hardly works. It is there because nothing else is available. (Interruption) Therefore, I must tell you and own before you—I do not want to mislead the House by saying that we can manage things in a nice manner—that as long as these thefts occur, as long as the open wire system is there, as long as we do not convert the open wire into underground cable, as long as we do not have a proper micro-wave system, as long as we do not produce these things in this country on a scale which would be commensurate with the needs of this country, we are going to be in great trouble about this whole matter.

I have been advised sometimes by some of my friends about the total number of calls that have not been made. Statistics are there, and they are nowhere to your satisfaction. But even one call missed, I think, is enough to charge us for inefficiency. But you will give me the credit on the score that the statistics are totally different and are not as poor as you pointed out. For instance, in Assam Circle, it was 85 per cent effective calls of the calls booked. From Assam, I will come down to Uttar Pradesh where it is 71 per cent. Uttar Pradesh in everything is always behind. So

it is behind in this particular thing also. But I must congratulate the people of the State of Tamil Nadu for being very much alert in everything including payment of rentals. We in Uttar Pradesh there also are lagging behind very much. Bihar does not leave us alone ; it continues to follow us !

My point is, the State of Tamil Nadu is the one State where efficiency is the highest ; the work-days lost are the least, because they produce the type of workers, they have that type of society which is disciplined, which looks to the national interests and works from that perspective. Therefore, we have a very nice working force there. In any case, so far as the other aspects are concerned, I have been told that I have stopped giving you the phonogram paper, that is which is a confirmatory copy of the phonogram. It costs 86 paise, and it was going to give a lot of losses. On the one hand, I am advised that I must stop my losses. On the other hand I am being told that I must give you those copies. Well, I am prepared to give you the copies, but one thing is to be assured. Now, 86 paise is the cost of giving you one copy. I am prepared to give it at 80 paise. I will lose only six paise. If the House will permit me, I can do that. But that will make it from 40 to 80, twice. We are presently paying only 40 paise. The losses are already very high. You are asking me to be commercial, to look after the business interests, on the one hand, in the proper way. On the other hand, you cannot ask me to be as spendthrift or be as expensive as anybody would like me to be.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Can you assure us that the telegrams will be sent in time at least ?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : Mr Banerjee will be helping me a great deal in having these telegrams sent. I do not know how much influence he carries with the telegraphists, because that is part of the union which his friends do not control. Therefore, he may not have that much influence there. However, as an old friend of mine—we have been co-workers in the Defence Employees' Federation—he will help me to see that the telegraphists do not take idle time yet and do not send the wires on. They do not have the lines down as they usually have in spite of the mechanics saying that the line is not down ; all that will not happen. Anyway, Mr.

Banerjee and I have been together for a long time, and therefore, it will be better if we do not twit each other. (Interruption)

Now, I have already told you that there have been 24,000 cases of theft of our lines. That is our greatest difficulty. Then, I would like to tell you that our factories are not producing as much as they can. But what happens? I do not get steel. The Joint Plant Committee says so much of steel will be given to you, but steel is not there. I am not complaining against anybody. But as things are, there is the shortage of raw material especially on the steel side, and there are idle hours and low production. Therefore, my factories do not produce all that they can. So far as the ITI is concerned, we are looking seriously into why the BTM agreement and collaboration terms have not succeeded in becoming effective. So far as the shortage of production there is concerned, it is under review and we hope we should be able to make up for that leeway and try to build our whole machinery in such a manner so that we can reach the rated capacity.

SHRI R. V. BADE : What about Madhya Pradesh ?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : It comes fourth in the matter of theft of wires ! The pending list there is very small compared to other States. In all places, we are trying to change them into automatic exchanges. For that, buildings have to be constructed and so on I am afraid that before the end of the fourth plan, we would not be able to achieve that pace of development which the country expects of us,

Regarding the Telephone Advisory Committee, I want to introduce a system whereby the advisory function will be available to the department at all levels. I want to associate the trade unions also with these advisory committees, so that they can hear the criticism of the public directly and take note of it.

SHRI R. N. SHARMA (Dhanbad) : I hope they will react.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : They are also human beings and they will react.

I have been told that I do not care about rural areas. The number of post offices in rural areas in 1947 was 22,116. In 1971, it is 1,05,433.

I have been told that I do not look after my business well. If you want me to increase the prices of postcards and inland letters. I would be the happiest to do so. We have tried to avoid it in spite of great need for money, especially in view of the influx of Bangladesh refugees.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : जो मूल्य बढ़ावें हैं, उन को कम कर दीजिए ।

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : It will not be possible to reduce the existing prices in any manner, because the wages, salaries and handling charges are so high. A post card costs us 20.3 paise against a revenue of 10 paise. An inland letter costs us 21.48 paise against 15 paise. A Registered newspaper costs us 29.90 paise against a revenue of 3.50 paise. A printed book costs us 32.39 paise against a revenue of 15.80. A money order costs us 136.94 paise, but we get back only 114.70 paise. Telephone is the only thing which makes up the losses and is helping the department to show a small surplus of Rs. 9 crores, which also may be eaten up because of the Pay Commission's recommendations and so many other demands made by the employees. Operational costs and cost of all stationery such as paper are going up. I do not know how much surplus will, really remain at the end of the year. We will however, try to bring in as much efficiency and economy as possible.

Though I have not been able to deal with every point raised, I have taken the general advice of the House for more efficiency and economy and better service to the people. An hon. member said, some post office was closed for political reasons. We have no such complaint on record. If a complaint is made, I shall certainly get it examined impartially. There should be no political consideration at all in the matter of opening or closing of post offices, so long as this Government under the leadership of Shrimati Indira Gandhi is here to lead this country. We do not have anything of that type. These are small mercies and if we depend on these small for mercies our political power than God alone help us.

My friends from Assam and Mr. Banerjee from U. P. talked about commemorative stamps. Our capacity to issue commemorative stamps is limited by the capacity of Nasik press to

[Shri H. N. Bahuguna]

print. In this year they have already 26 stamps which were committed much earlier than the general elections came and I do not think we can add to that list. Therefore, with great reluctance I said 'no' to my Governor in U.P. and other friends about the great poet and leader Shri A. P. Sen about whose stamp Mr. Banerjee referred to. It would be a great matter of satisfaction if I could do it. Some friends have also said about Tipu Sultan, Sheikh Mujibar Rehman, etc. All these commemorative stamps are good. But may I suggest one thing and I would seek the advice of the House on that and that of the Philatelic Advisory Committee. We should like to project India more than Indians through our commemorative stamps. If we could project India through those stamps it would be very much better. I do not say forget our old great men. But it looks to me balance has been in favour of men than India. If we could project India—flowers, fauna, geographical beauties, cultural aspects, folk dances—through our commemorative stamps that would be a much better thing. I am committing this matter to Philatelic Committee for its consideration and advice. I will refer all these suggestions once again to the Philatelic Committee but I am not sure if Nasik Press will be able to do this because its capacity is limited.

The last thing that I should like to say is that the postal employees have responded to me so far very very well. I invited them. They came together and I expect some results will come and unity will come to them. Mr. Banerjee was referring about the 1962 strike and its punishment. I may assure him that one of the first things that I did on joining the office was to order that no charge-sheet and explanation with reference to 1962 strike pending consideration be taken note of and similarly so far as the cases are concerned—about 500 cases are there in which Government appeals or cases in the original courts are pending—all these persons, excepting a few, are back on their jobs. This is a strange phenomenon. As a trade-unionist—speaking for myself—not committing the Government I cannot possibly do it because this has to be seen by the other Ministry. Once I have taken them in service it would look odd to prosecute them in the court of law. I do not know what will be the result. This incongruity is there and I have not been able to find a

solution. We are on it and Mr. Banerjee can trust me with the job so far as it goes and we will do our very best.

The second thing I did on joining was about the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. We have ordered a special recruitment to fill up all the backlog vacancies.

There are a lot of vacancies of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which have not been filled up all these years and there is a backlog. After every three years they are gone. I have said that all the backlog be completed within six months. Orders have already been issued and special recruitment for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be done. Where a Scheduled Tribe candidate is not available, that vacancy will be passed over to the Scheduled Castes or where a Scheduled Caste candidate is not available, the vacancy will go to the Scheduled Tribes if they are in a majority.

About my hon friend's suggestion about the extra-departmental employees and giving the Scheduled Castes a major hand in them, we will certainly keep that in mind, consider that aspect and try to give them, if not more, at least their quota on the reservation pattern in that also.

**SHRI M. SATYANARAYAN RAO :** What about the complaint of the Chief Minister of Andhra ?

**SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA :** I have already said that there are a lot of deficiencies in this department. I am not one of those who will say that the Chief Minister of Andhra was not right when he made that complaint. We are trying to do the job. We are trying to remove the difficulties. But the difficulties are many. The difficulty is of space, of late running of trains, of late going of a plane. For six months the Indian Airlines was in trouble; so, we were in trouble because our dak used to be taken by them. If Upper India Express comes 12 hours late, my dak from Calcutta is one day late in Delhi. If a train is late, I am late. Yet, I have no hand in running the trains. Late running of trains is not a new thing today. Similarly, some friends told me that we provide third class compartments instead of mail vans. That is the railway's business. I have taken up the matter with the Railways and I have met my colleague, the Railway



Minister. I am more than sure that my colleague, Shri Manmohan Bhatia, is doing the needful in the matter.

**SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO :** If telephone bills could be sent by registered post to subscribers and a receipt obtained, as is done in the case of electricity bills and other important bills, a lot of inconvenience will be saved and there will be no disconnections of telephones in a wrong manner.

**SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA :** I would keep in mind the suggestion of my hon. friend. I cannot right away say whether we can do it or not. We will see and do whatever is possible.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Send him at least by registered post.

**SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA :** Shri Banerjee was worried about the STD. A lot of mechanism and capital investment will be needed to do what he wants to do. Let us start with the STD and try to tell our friends to be kind to us and not to misuse it when they are our guests. I know, they do it. They have done it to me and they will do it to any Member of Parliament. When the constituents come, they are bound to use it.

We are dealing with more than 500,000 workers. It is a labour-intensive department. The trade union movement in this field is the oldest. So far there was an equation of fear between the union and the officers of the department. The officers feared the unions. I hate fear. I told my colleagues in the department that they need not have any fear. They should have awe, reverence, respect for the unions and trade unionism for that is an integral part of our democratic functioning. We will never penalise or victimise any trade union worker. But I have told them that there should be no element of fear in dealing effectively with matters connected with discipline and efficient functioning of the department. I am happy that both the federations have also jointly agreed that inefficiency and indiscipline cannot be hidden behind the garb of trade unionism. I have, therefore, every hope that we will improve our functioning and when we come before this august House and you next time it will be my endeavour to come with a

better shape and a better face, though the task is stupendous. In that I solicit the cooperation of the whole House.

With these words, I beg of the House to accept the Demands.

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** सभी राजधानियों के साथ यहाँ से सीधी लाइन है, भोपाल के साथ नहीं है।

**SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA :** If I were to speak on every individual question that was raised, I will require at least 2½ hours. But I can assure him that in Bhopal, the automatic exchange is coming very soon. We are already building it up there. The machines are being made available and Bhopal, as soon as, these automatic machines are installed, will have the S.T.D.

**SHRI ZULFIQUAR ALI KHAN (Rampur) :** But it should be air-conditioned.

**SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA :** Yes. In Rampur, it is not air-conditioned. Therefore, Nawabzada is right.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Now I put all the cut motions together to the vote of the House.

*All the cut motions were put and negatived*

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** The question is :

‘That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the order paper including the sums already voted ‘on account’ for the relevant services be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1972, in respect of Demands Nos. 90, 94 and 143 relating to the Ministry of Communications.’

*The motion was adopted*

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** The question is :

‘That the respective sums, not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the order paper be granted to the President to complete the sums necessary



[Mr. Chairman]

to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1972, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 91, 92, 93 and 144 relating to the Ministry of Communications."

*The motion was adopted*

16.39 hrs.

#### CONVICTION OF MEMBER

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to inform the House that the Speaker has received the following communication dated 28th June, 1971, from the Special Railway Magistrate and Magistrate First Class, Bhopal :—

"I have the honour to inform you that Shri B. S. Chowhan, Member, Lok Sabha, was tried at Bhopal before me on charges under Sections 120 and 128, Indian Railways Act. On the 28th June, 1971, after a trial lasting for one day, I found him guilty of above offences and sentenced him to imprisonment for one day."

16.40 hrs.

#### DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1971-72—Contd. MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 63 to 67 and 132 relating to the Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation for which 7 hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members present in the House who are desirous of moving their cut motions may send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : You said, "Labour and Rehabilitation". Has "Employment" been omitted ?

#### DEMAND NO. 63—MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,13,64,000 including the sums already voted 'on account' for the relevant services be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1972, in respect of 'Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation'."

#### DEMAND NO. 64—DIRECTOR GENERAL, MINES SAFETY

MR. CHAIRMAN Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,89,000 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, 1972, in respect of 'Director General, Mines Safety'."

#### DEMAND NO. 6—LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

MR. CHAIRMAN Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 17,01,73,000 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, 1972, in respect of 'Labour and Employment'."

#### DEMAND NO. 66—EXPENDITURE ON DISPLACED PERSONS

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,64,97,000 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, 1979 in respect of 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons'."

#### DEMAND NO. 67—OTHER REVENUE EXPENDITURE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,67,000 including the sums already voted 'on account, for the relevant services be granted to the President to defray the