

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You wanted to know the facts. This morning you raised this issue and he, naturally, thought that he should make a statement giving the general facts of the case. Normally, the practice followed is that no questions are permitted.....(Interruption)

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN (Badagara): It is not the question.....(Interruption)

श्री रवि राय (पुरी) : बिना वारंट के इस तरह से संसद् सदस्यों को पकड़ना कितनी गलत चीज है ? इस तरह से एम पीज पर पुलिस का जुल्म चलता रहेगा और आप यहाँ पर उस बारे में बोलने भी नहीं देना चाहते। हमें गृह मंत्री महोदय से इस बारे में स्पष्टीकरण ही मांग लेने दीजिये। इस तरह से बिना वारंट के 5 संसद् सदस्य गिरफ्तार हो जायें यह एक साधारण घटना नहीं है और इसलिए इसे एक असाधारण घटना मान कर इस पर हमें स्पष्टीकरण मांगने दीजिये।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If I permit one, I will have to permit others.....(Interruption). On the basis of this statement, there are other ways to put questions at a later stage, not now.

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18.19 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1968-69—Contd.

Department of Communications—Contd.

श्री ना० नि० पटेल (बलसार) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, अगर जनरल पब्लिक का सम्बन्ध सरकार के किसी डिपार्टमेंट से सब से ज्यादा है तो वह यह डाक व तार विभाग का मुहकमा है। डाक, तार मुहकमे के अधीन काम करने वाले कर्मचारी लोग और सरकारी विभागों के कर्मचारियों की तुलना में अधिक मेहनत व ईमानदारी से अपना कर्तव्य निभाते हैं। अब इसके विपरीत रेलवे के बुकिंग क्लर्क को आप ले लीजिये वह टिकट के लिए जाने वाले ग्रामीण मुसाफिरों से और जोकि जल्दी में होते हैं क्योंकि ट्रेन

पकड़नी होती है उन से वह ज्यादा पैसे ले लिया करते हैं। इस तरह से ऊपर से वह पैसे उस जगह पर बैठकर बनाता है। इसी तरह से पासल क्लर्क भी पासल छुड़ाने वालों से 2, 4 रुपये ऊपर ले ही लेता है। इसी तरह से पुलिस के सिपाही को भी ऊपर से पैसे मिल ही जाया करते हैं। साइकिल में बत्ती मंही है या डबल राईडिंग साइकिल पर ही रही है तो वह सिपाही पुलिस का 2, 4 रुपये उन आदमियों से बना लेता है। लेकिन जहाँ तक इस पोस्टल डिपार्टमेंट का सवाल है उनको वह डाक टिकट, लिफाफे व पोस्टकार्ड गिन कर दिये जाते हैं और आने आने और पाई, पाई तंका का हिसाब हो जाता है। वह एक पैसे का भी इधर, उधर नहीं कर सकता है। जहाँ तक उनके द्वारा ड्यूटी देने का सम्बन्ध है यह बेचारे पोस्टमैन वारिश के दिनों में और तपती गरमी व लू के मौसम में बिट्टियां बाँटते पंदल घूमते हैं और गरमी में जब पसीना बहता है तो उसके बदन पर नमक पड़ता है। वैसे उनकी हालत है। देने के वक्त सब चिल्लाते हैं कि उनके रहने के लिये कुछ नहीं है, दूसरी कोई सुविधा नहीं है। सुविधा सब चाहते हैं कि दी जाय, लेकिन पैसे कहां से लायें ? बिना पैसे के कैसे काम चले सकता है ? अगर आप बढ़ाना चाहते हैं। तो बढ़ाइये, ठीक है क्योंकि बिना बढ़ाये कैसे काम चले सकता है, लेकिन इसका इन्तजाम तो होना चाहिये। पोस्टकार्ड पर पैसा बढ़ गया तो कहते हैं कि दिक्कत है और नहीं बढ़ना चाहिये। लेकिन दूसरी तरफ आप देखिये कि पहले खाने का पान दो पैसे में मिलता था, लेकिन उस दिन मैंने पॉलिथीन में लिया तो 15 पैसे का मिला और वह भी सिंगल पान, जिसमें सिर्फ कच्चा सुपारी था, तम्बाकू नहीं थी। इसको कोई नहीं सोचता। उस को लोग खा कर धूक देते हैं और दीवार गंदी करते हैं। तो यह तो ठीक है कि सुविधा देनी चाहिये, लेकिन उसके लिये पैसा तो हो। पैसा कहां से लायेंगे ? ठीक है, जरूरत है, और इस पर सीधे विचार करना चाहिये।

[श्री ना० नि० पटेल]

मेरा यह सुझाव है कि जो पोस्टमैन हो या डिपार्टमेंट के क्लर्क हैं उनको जितनी सुविधायें दी जा सकें, बी जायें क्योंकि उनको बहुत कम पैसा मिलता है। दूसरा सुझाव यह है कि हर एक गांव में, जिसकी आबादी एक हजार हो, उसमें पोस्ट आफिस होना चाहिये। टेलिफोन के बारे में कहना चाहता हूं कि डायरेक्ट डायलिंग सिस्टम दिल्ली से अहमदाबाद तक हो गया है। अहमदाबाद और बम्बई के बीच को एक एक्सप्रेस लाइन डाल दी है उसको जल्दी से चालू करा दीजिये जिस से दिक्कतें और कम्प्लेंट्स कम हो जायें।

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर (सहरसा) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यद्यपि पोस्ट आफिस विभाग के मंत्री बिहार के हैं, लेकिन उन्होंने बिहार के लिये कुछ नहीं किया है। मेरा तो उन के विरुद्ध अभियोग है कि उन्होंने बिहार के होते हुए भी बिहार के लिये कुछ नहीं किया। खास कर जो उत्तर बिहार का इलाका है, जहां से मैं आता हूँ, और जहां के लिये अभी माननीय सदस्य ने कहा, वहां बांडर की सुरक्षा की दृष्टि से उस का विकास बहुत आवश्यक है। आप को जान कर ताज्जुब होगा कि मैं जिस इलाके का रहने वाला हूँ, वहां का बांडर नेपाल के साथ सटा हुआ है और नेपाल में अभी तक डाक व्यवस्था नहीं हो पाई है। वहां कहीं भी डाक व्यवस्था ठीक नहीं है। यह तो हमारे बांडर के इलाके की स्थिति है कि कहीं पोस्ट आफिस पांच मील पर और कहीं सात मील पर है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्री जी ने इस के लिये कोई आधार रक्षा है कि कितनी दूर दूर पर डाकखाना हुआ करेगा?

हर जिले का अपना दफ्तर होता है और सुपरिन्टेंडेंट पोस्ट आफिसेज होता है और वहां से जिले का कंट्रोल होता है। लेकिन आप को जान कर आश्चर्य होगा कि मेरे जिले की आबादी 22 लाख के लगभग है, लेकिन हमारे

यहां सुपरिन्टेंडेंट पोस्ट आफिसेज का आफिस नहीं बन पाया है। पांच-पांच रास्तों से होकर वहां चिट्ठी जाती है और दस-दस, बारह-बारह रोज में पहुंचती है। मैंने पिछले साल मंत्री जी को इस के बारे में लिखा था लेकिन उन का वही घिसा पिटा जवाब आ गया कि पोस्ट आफिस के बारे में लिखा गया है कि क्या हो सकता है। बने बनाये खत तैयार रहते हैं, उस पर सिर्फ मंत्री जी के दस्तखत रहते हैं।

अगर आप देहातों का विकास करना चाहते हैं तो जो भी गांवों के रहने वाले हैं उन के भले के लिये जब तक गांवों का विकास नहीं होगा और सिर्फ शहरों का ही विकास होता रहेगा, तब तक नये देश के निर्माण का गांधी जी का सपना साकार नहीं होगा। अगर यह सोचा जाता है कि वह साकार हो गया तो यह गलत है और अपने को धोखा देना है। मैं उदाहरण देने के लिये तैयार हूँ जहां पर कि 10,000 की आबादी में एक छोटा पोस्ट आफिस भी नहीं है। अगर इस तरीके से विकास का काम चलेगा तो कैसे हमारा उद्देश्य पूरा हो सकता है। मैं डा० राम सुभग सिंह से कहना चाहता हूँ कि हर एक बड़े अंचल में एक सब पोस्ट आफिस होना चाहिये, हर बड़े अंचल के लिये टेलीफोन की व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिये। 70 या 80 हजार की आबादी का एक बड़ा अंचल रहता है, वहां पर एक सब पोस्ट आफिस और एक पब्लिक काल आफिस हो जाय तो बड़ा काम हो सकता है।

सहरसा का जिला खास तौर से पिछड़ा हुआ है। सब से पिछड़ा राज्य बिहार है और बिहार में सब से पिछड़ा क्षेत्र है सहरसा जिला और वह भी सीमा से सटा हुआ है। बांडर पर होने की दृष्टि से वह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण है। इस लिये मैं मंत्री महोदय से आग्रह करूंगा कि उस पिछड़े हुए सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र की ओर उन को विशेष रूप से ध्यान देना चाहिये।

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) :

I am thankful to all the hon. members who have participated in this debate and given constructive suggestions in this regard. But I might be pardoned if I say some truth about Shri Lobo Prabhu ; those who have jaundiced eyes always see the universe yellow. As you know, the blind people cannot read any letters...

(*Interruptions*). Mr. Lobo Prabhu is the greatest admirer of British Government and he cannot understand the difficulties of the ordinary people in India. He thinks that every thing should be oriented in the British fashion and more particularly in his ICS fashion, and that, I am not going to allow because he wants that they should draw fatter salaries, they should enjoy fatter concessions and amenities...

(*Interruptions*). He wants all the concessions for himself. He does not understand who will give him that concession. The ordinary people of India must not be made to suffer to serve his interests. I would not allow that. He wants to advocate the capitalist system, capitalist plus ICS system and this Department at least is not going to be guided by his advice... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI LOBO PRABHU : May I enquire this ?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : I am not yielding.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Let him elaborate where I have recommended a capitalist system.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister is not yielding. What can I do ?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : I am not going to tax the people who never write a postcard, nor am I going to tax the people who can never use any inland letters or any envelopes, for his sake. He says that the people should be given the concessions. Who are the people ? The majority of the people in India, 82 per cent of them, do not know how to read and write, and all the concessions are not going to be given to the intelligent people

like him. Therefore, I reject all the suggestions that he has made. (*Interruptions*)

I accept Mr. Sheo Narian's suggestion about border areas. He and other members like Mr. Lakkappa and Mr. K. K. Chatterjee, talked about scheduled castes. All the concessions that are due to them are being extended to them. But if there is any shortcoming anywhere, I will be very liberal in that regard—not only their quota, but I will examine if even more than the quota can be given to them.

Mr. Lakkappa said about Mr. Martin Luther King. I accept that suggestion also, but I might inform him that, even prior to his giving this suggestion, we have already decided that special commemorative stamps for Sardar Bhagat Singh and Mr. Martin Luther King will be issued very soon.

Then, some other suggestions were also made. My task has been lightened by my hon. friends, Shri D. C. Sharma, Shri N. N. Patel and Shri D. S. Patil. About the telegraphic money order which was sent by somebody, about which Mr. Patil pointed out, I will see that that is paid tomorrow and whoever is guilty—I do not want to punish anybody—will be pulled up.

Mr. N. N. Patel talked about Bombay Ahmedabad co-axil cable. Mr. Lakkappa said about discrimination against the South. It can never happen like that ; if it happened in the past, I should not be made to suffer on that account. As you know, there is an S. T. D. system between Madras and Bangalore, and we are going to give priority to Madras in regard to automatic trunk exchanges.

For, we are going to open five trunk exchanges. Madras is going to be given a special treatment in that regard because we want to put that part of our country on the STD.

Shrimati Laxmi Bai spoke about the Hyderabad and Poona stations where work was recently sanctioned ; my hon. colleague Shri I. K. Gujral tells me that the work has already started, and when that work is completed and that will be commissioned and the Madras automatic exchange also will be commissioned, most of the tasks in that part of the country will be lightened.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumker) : My point was that in a direct dialling system from the capital, all the important cities in South India should be linked up.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : That will be done by the end of this year if everything goes well.

SHRI NAMBIAR : We are talking about the microwave system.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : That is under construction, and then Calcutta-Madras, Madras-Delhi, Delhi-Bombay and all other areas will be connected.

I shall be very particular regarding the border area, and we are already particular about it. Shri Prem Chand Verma and Shri Sheo Narain had referred to this matter. We are not going to neglect our border areas. Shri Gunanand Thakur also referred to this. As part of our policy we have already put Jammu and Srinagar on the micro-wave link, and one can talk to Srinagar and Jammu without any difficulty. We may very soon connect Ladakh also during the summer time. In that way, this policy of linking the entire border area is going to be implemented as expeditiously as possible.

Regarding post offices, certain hon. Members have pointed out that certain backward areas have been neglected. Shri Gunanand Thakur had referred to a place where the population was 10,000 but still there was no post office. I straightway say that we shall open a post office there. Our policy is that every panchayat ultimately will be having a post office.

We are going to have one lakh post offices within two months. I believe, by June.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : But he is demanding money from them as deposit.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : That is part of the policy because wherever it is going to run at a loss, we have to provide for it. Normally, we open P. O. S. to serve a village or group of villages with a population of 2,000 or more if the annual loss does not exceed Rs. 750/- p. a. In the backward areas we permit a loss of Rs. 1000/- p. a. and in some of the more back-

ward areas we even open post offices at a loss of Rs. 2,500/- p. a. But no place in India will be left out without a post office if it is a panchayat unit. There will at least be as many panchayat post offices as there are panchayat units in the country, and that will percolate into the remotest corner. That policy will take the post office to the remotest corner of our country.

The Anchal policy is also a good thing that every block headquarters should have a telephone system, a telegraph system and a head post office. We shall consider it and see that this also becomes a part of our policy. The House will be interested to know that when the admirers of Shri Lobo Prabhu, the Britishers were here, or the British Government were here, there were less than 22000 post offices, but the moment they left and the government came into the hands of the ordinary people, the number of post offices has gone up to about one lakh, the number of telegraph offices to over 10,000 and the number of exchanges to over 4000. He being a blind man can never see what is happening because he is trained in the ICS style. I have regard for the ICS people, but not for the ICS type which wants to move like an ox round an oil *ghani*.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU : On a point of personal explanation. I am entitled to reply because he has made a personal charge against me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is not yielding.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : I will never yield to him.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU : If the Minister claims to have achieved all this, will he have the small intelligence to reply to me? He may be a Minister, but let him have this small intelligence to reply to the points I raised (*Interruption*.)

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : As part of our policy, we are going to open as many PCOs as possible.

SHRI MUDRIKA SINHA : On a point of order.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : I know his area more than him. No point of order *(Interruption)*

SHRI D. N. PATODIA (Jalore) : How can the Minister say that there is no point of order? It is for you to judge, and give your ruling.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I was looking at him. Has he any point to raise?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : No, Sir.

Regarding the suggestion of Shri D. C. Sharma that more PCOs should be opened, I accept it, because this is going to benefit the most ordinary people of our country; those who cannot afford to have a telephone can get the benefit of PCO.

He also made a suggestion about the telephone scheme...

SHRI DATTATRAYA KUNTE (Kolaba) : The hon. Minister said, 'sit down'. Will that go on record? Is it procedurally proper for him to say that?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I understand the procedural propriety part of it.

SHRI DATTATRAYA KUNTE : I am on a point of order. The hon. Minister said 'Sit down'. That might go on record.

He is the Chief Whip of the Party in power. Therefore he has that authority over his party members. But he can communicate that authority in a written manner, not in this manner, because after all there should be some decorum in the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I entirely agree so far as the procedure is concerned. He never said 'Sit down'. He said 'No point of order'.

SHRI GUNANAND THAKUR : He said 'Sit down'.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : Regarding the scheme to which I was referring a little while ago, we have to some extent reoriented it and I shall discuss it with

the hon. Member and try to accommodate his ideas.

Regarding the India-Pak telephone system, he suggested that we should keep a watch. While replying to a supplementary by Prof. Ranga, I said the other day that we would see that no untoward events are allowed to be communicated to any place on our telephone system. As you know, this is the rule.

Regarding what Shri Suraj Bhan pointed out, frauds in the postal system to the tune of Rs. 9,80,000 and some other things which Shri Lakkappa also pointed out, we will see that we exercise proper check on all these frauds and other things.

Shri Bimal Ghosh spoke about telephone exchanges, that more and more of them should be opened. That is our policy. Last year we opened about 184 telephone exchanges.

Regarding the point raised by Shri Ramabhadran and Shri Rabi Ray, as you know our policy is to introduce administration in as many regional languages as we can. Therefore, we have ordered that all the forms and even postcards, inland letters and other things, wherever possible and within the limitations of our printing presses, should conform to this policy. Of course, this cannot be done in one day.

SHRI NAMBIAR : Some space may be left in the postcard for the person to write also.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : Postcard does not matter. As regards forms particularly, we will see that the regional languages are used there. The same policy with regard to signboards etc.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : What about telephone directories in regional languages?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : We have got it in Tamil, Gujarati, Hindi; we will encourage that also.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : On a point of clarification. It is published through private entrepreneurs for which a charge is levied. So people are not in a position to purchase it. Why not the department do it so that instead of the English version, people in the south may get the Tamil version?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Anyway, our policy will be to encourage the regional languages. Then, Sardar Saigal pointed out that the interest on the savings bank deposits is not as high as in the commercial banks. But, as you know, Commercial banks' accounts are subject to income-tax, whereas the postal savings accounts are not subject to the income-tax rules. Then, the postal savings banks are spread throughout the country and we are going to open 10,000 more. Virtually, 50 per cent of our post-offices are now going to be converted into savings banks. So, more and more facilities will be given to the people in regard to depositing their savings in the postal savings banks, just as Shri Sheo Narain wanted when he said that the people should be enabled to deposit their saving in the post 1 savings banks.

AN HON. MEMBER : Rs. 50,000.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : All right ; I will come to the rates etc., later. Shri Vasudeavn Nair referred to interference from the Home and the Finance Ministries. Last year I had mentioned here regarding the raising of the status of our P & T Board and the financial integration and also about giving some more rights to our circle officers in regard to expenditure. We have got that done. Now our Financial Member is having all the powers and privileges of the corresponding Members in the Railway Board. I do not want to be repudiated by Mr. Nambiar because he having been a railway employees' leader has developed some hatred for the railway. (Interruption)

SHRI NAMBIAR : I have no such feeling.

श्री रवि राय : इस से तो आपको भी नफरत होगी ।

SHRI D. C. SHARMA : You can make him a postmaster somewhere !

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : I accept his suggestion if he is willing !

श्री रवि राय : हमें बुम नौकरशाह बना दोगे ?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : About housing, some Members mentioned about the difficulty in regard to housing. It is really a difficult problem which we are confronted with, because, as you know, out of over 15,000 departmental post-offices, we are not having 2,000 post-offices in government buildings. What to say about the staff people ? This is the least-housed department, because in the railways the percentage goes to over 34, but here it comes within four per cent. Therefore, on this account also some extra revenue should be raised. (Interruption)

श्री रवि राय : गरीब लोगों पर बोझ डालना चाहते हैं ।

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : Because I want to give a good housing system to the P&T Department. Nowadays, it is not the day of the British Government. My friend Shri Lobo Prabhu has left the House: at that time, they were living in rented houses or living with some friends, etc. Now nobody can be given a house gratis ; take the cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Delhi, Aligarh or Kanpur. Suitable Government quarters should be provided to every member of the staff. I got it worked out and it comes to Rs. 35 crores though our funds at the moment is less than Rs. 5 crores for all building works. This is the difference. I want everybody's co-operation and we will try to emphasise this matter everywhere. I hope the Finance Ministry will also agree. Previously we were not in a position to pay our dividends, two or three years' arrears are there. We were not in a position to pay anything, but now we are in a changed position.

Mention was also made about the Khadi uniform. It is a fact that there is some demand. I do not want to quote Shri Sheo Narain more than two or three times, but again I have to quote him. He said about the Ministers. I would like everyone to use it. This is the uniform, after Independence, of the nation.

The fight for independence was waged in that uniform and even if it is costlier, we would like that it should be provided to the people. We are prepared to bear the burden.

श्री रवि राय : पी० एण्ड टी० बोर्ड के डायरेक्टर क्या पहनते हैं, उन को भी पहनाइये समानता लाइये ।

श्री रंजीत सिंह (खलीलाबाद) : आई० सी० एस० के लोग क्या पहनते हैं ?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : You are also no exception.

श्री रंजीत सिंह : मैं आई० सी० एस० में नहीं था । मैं सेना में था । अगर सेना को कन्डेम करेंगे तो भयंकर परिणाम होंगे ।

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : Being a major in the army does not qualify you to know more about the army than myself.

There have been demands in several places for reclassification of cities. Whenever this demand proves to be genuine in my view, I will naturally take up the matter with the Finance Ministry.

About Kerala circle, it was said that more concessions should be given in the hill areas. I do not know whether it will be possible, because all the concessions we are going to give are to any backward area. We are going to extend those concessions not only to forest areas in Kerala, but we are going to take the entire country Mysore, Kerala, Madras, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh of which Mr. Verma spoke and so on. (Interruptions)

मुद्रिका बाबू ने कहा कि जन्म के पहले गर्भपात हो गया । पता नहीं उन को यह बात मालूम है या नहीं कि यदि गर्भपात हो जाय तो जन्म कैसे होगा । कम से कम इन दोनों बातों में तुक मिला कर बोलना चाहिये । अब जैसे कोई फॅमिली प्लानिंग करने लगे, खुद फॅमिली का मालूम न हो, इस तरह से गपमाँत करने लगे, लेकिन खुद का मालूम न हो । उन्होंने कुम्भकरण की बात की-बात सही है । मैं तो कहूँगा-मुझे माफ करेंगे, क्योंकि वह हमारे बुजुर्ग हैं, मैं उनकी कद्र करता हूँ-रामावतार जी भी जानते हैं और गुणानन्द जी भी जानते हैं, उन का वहाँ बहुत मेल जोल है, गया जिले में हिन्दुस्तान में सब से ज्यादा गर्मी पड़ती है, चूँकि आज कल गर्मी

का मौसम है' इस लिए थोड़ा कड़ा होना आवश्यक है । इसलिये जैसा उन्होंने नवीनगर के लिए कहा कि किसी औजार के न रहते वह एक्स-चेन्ज बन नहीं सका, मैं उसको तुरन्त पूरा कर दूँगा । उन्होंने पोस्ट आफिस के लिये भी कहा कि 12-12 मील पर पोस्ट आफिस नहीं है- तो अब तक वह कुम्भकरण नौद में कहां पड़े रहे, उन को उस के लिये पहले लड़ना चाहिये था । फिर भी वगैर किसी के जगाये मैं उनका काम पूरा करा दूँगा । इमामन और डुमरिया गांव का उन्होंने नाम लिया-वाजिब रीति के अनुसार यदि मैं यह कहूँ कि वह एरिया बैंकवर्ड है, तो भी वे मुझ से नाराज होंगे, क्योंकि वहां के लोग अपने को फावर्ड मानते हैं । अगर फावर्ड होते हुए पोस्ट आफिस में बैंकवर्ड हैं, तो चाहे अपने को बघाई दें, चाहे कुम्भकरण को बघाई दें-यह कैसे हुआ । लेकिन डुमरिया में भी मैं पोस्ट-आफिस तुरत खुलवा दूँगा ।

जंगल और पहाड़ों में भी सबसीडाइज्ड पोस्ट आफिस की बात इन्होंने की है । पहाड़ी क्षेत्र में जो इनएक्सेसिबिल एरियाज हैं, वहां 2500 रु० तक हम घाटा सहने को तैयार हैं और मेम्बर लोगों की राय के अनुसार मैं उस काम को करूँगा ।

श्रीमन्, सहरसा साधारण स्थान नहीं है । श्री गुणानन्द जी ने मांग की कि वहां पर सुप्रीन्टेन्डेन्ट का डिवीजन बना दो । हमारे रवी राय जी ने भारछोवड़ा के लिये भी ऐसी मांग की है, मदुराई के लिये भी ऐसी मांग की गई है, लेकिन डिवीजन कायदे से बनता है । वहां आर० एम० एस० डिवीजन बनाये तो वहां कम से कम 500 या उस से अधिक क्लर्क होने चाहियें ।

About Madurai, I will speak in English. For bifurcation of an R. M. S. Division the Class III officers should be more than 500 and the work length should exceed 3,000 KM. I have every sympathy for both these places—Madurai and Jharsaguda and I am prepared to consider them, but the route length both of them is unfortunately less than three thousand KM.

[Dr. Ram Subhag Singh]

If bifurcated they would not constitute even 3000 kilometres. I am going into this commitment of our colleague Shri Jaganath Rao. I will have it examined. I will also have this madurai case examined.

SHRI NAMBIAR : The staff is more than 1000.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : I will find out. I will have it checked. Any commitment made on any basis I am not going to dishonour. Shri Nambiar said about my colleague Shri Gujral's commitment. I will find out. He did not say what commitment he made. He put something in my mouth also. I never made any commitment anywhere. If any commitment has been made by Shri Gujral that will certainly be honoured and honoured expeditiously.

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर : सहरसा और दरभंगा के सम्बन्ध में क्या कठनाई है ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : दरभंगा में एक पोस्टल डिवीजन हो, इसके सम्बन्ध में मैं देख रहा था। वहाँ पर करीब तीन सौ इम्प्लाइज, बल्कि कुछ ज्यादा होंगे लेकिन अगर सहरसा में भी 300 होंगे तो उसको भी देख लिया जायेगा। लेकिन आप अपने क्षेत्र को पिछड़ा क्यों मानते हैं ? इतने चीफ मिनिस्टर नार्थ बिहार से हुये और आज भी हैं।... (व्यवधान)...

आप घबड़ाते क्यों हैं, मैं आपको सब कन्सेप्शन्स दे दूंगा।

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर : सरहसा में आपको कठनाई क्या है ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : पोस्ट आफिसेज की जो बात हुई, मैंने कह दिया कि कर दूंगा। सरहसा में अगर तीन सौ इम्प्लाइज होंगे तो मुझे कोई उजर नहीं होगा, उसको मैं दिल्वा लूंगा।

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर : सरहसा में 300 हैं।

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : मैं आपको दिल्वा लूंगा।

I accept Shri Nambiar's Suggestion. If the Railways are having surplus coaches then we will approach the Railway Minister to provide us some extra coaches. Shri Shastri's suggestion also I am accepting. If conditions allow we are prepared to do it, because all these things are met at the cost of passengers. Shri Ramavatar Shastri will appreciate that the Assam Mail is virtually overcrowded. Its capacity is to carry twelve coaches. Wherever there is no electrification, no dieselisation, it would not be possible to carry more than twelve coaches. It is also very much overcrowded. I do not know whether they will be agreeing to have one RMS coach at the cost of passenger coaches more particularly third class passenger coaches.

रघुबीर सिंह शास्त्री जी ने टेलीफोन के बारे में कहा लेकिन वे चले गये। मैं उनसे भारतीय भाषा में बात करता हूँ लेकिन भारतीय भाषा के समर्थकों की यह हालत है कि भीके पर वे गैर हाजिर हो जाते हैं। तार और टेलीफोन की सुविधा के सम्बन्ध में जो उन्होंने चर्चा की है, उसकी मैं जांच करा लूंगा। जो हमारी ग्राम नीति है अगर उसके अनुकूल वहाँ स्थिति होगी तो मैं वहाँ पर जरूर लगवा दूंगा।

श्रीमती संगम लक्ष्मी बाई ने जहिराबाद के बारे में कहा है कि पिछड़ा इलाका है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा है कि एग्जीक्यूटिव कोऑपरेटिव, शुगर फैक्टरी... (व्यवधान)...

मैं जहिराबाद में टेलीफोन की सुविधा करवा दूंगा।

Shri D. S. Patil said about more Circles. Today it is our policy, as you know, to have not more than one PMG in each State.

SHRI DEORAO PATIL : Examine the demand of having a P. & T. Circle in Nagpur.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : Reasonable requirements of Nagpur will be met.

I will discuss this matter with Shri D. S. Patil, Shri Deshmukh and Shri Son...

awane and we will try to meet the reasonable requirements of Nagpur, short of this, because more and more circles mean additional posts and expenditure will go up.

tion is only 2 lakhs or 3 lakhs. These are the difficulties.

AN HON. MEMBER : What about newspapers ?

श्री गुरानन्द ठाकुर : एक भाषासन हम और चाहते हैं। दिल्ली में दूसरों के नाम पर लोगों ने कनेक्शन ले रहे हैं और इस प्रकार से जालसाजी कर रहे हैं। क्या मन्त्री जी इसकी जांच करवा लेंगे, अगर इसके उदाहरण दिये जाय।

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : Everybody is interested in newspapers. Sir, you are also interested in newspapers. Because, newspaper is one of the best institutions in our country. But—and this is a big “but”—I do not want that India should be made a country of concessions. How many concessions could we go on giving ? Everybody wants concessions and no work. No newspaper consulted us when it increased its price. The newspapers went on increasing their prices. From 2 paise it has gone up to 18 or 20 paise. I think the periodical of Shri Varma costs at least 25 paise.

श्री० राम सुभग सिंह : आप उदाहरण दीजिये, मैं उसकी जांच करवा दूंगा कि आया वह सही है या गलत है।

SHRI SHIVAJI RAO S. DESHMUKH (Parbhani) : May I point out that the Minister made a commitment earlier when the PMG Circle was shifted from Nagpur...

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : I will discuss the matter with the Home Minister.

Then, Shri K. K. Chatterjee said about the bifurcation of the postal and telecommunication system on the ground that one is a losing concern and the other is a paying concern. I do not know whether all the losing concerns should be elbowed out and kept at one place and all the paying concerns at another place, because administratively it would not be a good thing.

About mob rule in Calcutta, we are opposed to mob rule anywhere, more particularly in Calcutta, which is the nerve centre of eastern India.

Then, there should be post offices in all areas, more particularly in inaccessible areas.

पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों के बारे में कहा गया है कि वहाँ पर दो दो, तीन तीन मील तक कोई पोस्ट आफिस ही नहीं है लेकिन वहाँ पर तो आठ आठ मील तक गाँव भी नहीं हैं। जैसे लद्दाख का एरिया है।

The main difficulty is that it has got an area of 30,000 sq. miles and the popula-

There is another interesting fact. We have not increased our postage on them. They get even now at the enhanced price concessions running into lakhs of rupees. Most of the small newspapers of today are not like Mahatma Gandhi's *Harijan* or Tilak's *Kesari*. Then, there are papers run by government like *Yojana*, railways, *Dak Tar* and so on. Thousands of papers are published by the Government of India. If you take into consideration the papers published by the State Governments also, it will come to a very big number. Then, there are undertakings in the public sector and private sector also which publish their newspapers. Why should the concessions be given to them. If there are papers like Mahatma Gandhi's *Harijan* and Tilak's *Kesari*, I am always prepared to consider sympathetically their case. But where is the need to consider sympathetically, when they are published by government institutions or private profit-making institutions ? If it is in the interest of the people, I am always prepared to take up that matter.

19.00 hrs.

SHRI NAMBIAR : It increases the price spiral. Why do you contribute to that ?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : It is over 100 per cent correct, but when he asks for an increase in the pay of the staff

[Dr. Ram Subhag Singh]

he forgets that philosophy. I want that he should be consistent in his way of thinking. I would be prepared to accept his ideas : even from jail I have accepted his ideas.

It is a fact that the P & T Department has rendered the most useful service to society and ungrudging service at a time when both the railways and the airlines were having strikes at several times because of the language trouble and other things. There were strikes. Trains were derailed and burnt. Might be, some money orders also were burnt along with the mail because most of the things are carried by the railways and the aeroplanes. Despite those strikes, our people rendered such signal service and I congratulate our P & T employees, more particularly the Class III and Class IV employees.

Coming to the raising of the rate, I need only say that the postal branch has been working at a deficit, as I said earlier, during the last few years and this deficit has now gone up from Rs. 2.28 crores in 1965-66 to an estimated figure of Rs. 16.81 crores during 1967-68. There were certain minor increases in some of the rates during the period May 1963 to August 1967, but the additional revenue has been practically submerged by the steeply increasing staff cost. The P & T Department has defaulted in the payment of its due dividend to the General Revenues on the capital advanced to it to the extent of Rs. 3.94 crores in 1965-66 and Rs. 3.10 crores in 1967-68. During the year 1967-68 the estimate shows that the department would not only not be able to pay the due dividend of Rs. 17.31 crores but its other expenditure will be in excess of the estimated revenue by Rs. 2.26 crores. The cumulative losses for the last three years add up to Rs. 20.61 crores and the department has been obliged to take an interest-bearing advance from the General Revenues to make up the shortfall, which has to be repaid in three instalments. While the Government does not look upon the P & T Department as a revenue-earning department, about which Shri Nambiar laid great emphasis, it expects it to pay its way as well as to mobilise resources to meet a part of its developmental expenditure. I pointed out about housing. Three-fourths of our post

office, telephone exchanges and others are in rented buildings and rents are going up. No landlord is prepared to repair them. As I had announced in April last year, the Tariff Enquiry Committee went into it and on the recommendation of that committee we have enhanced the rates.

Reference has been made about the JCM. The panels of arbitrators have been selected. The terms of reference have been drawn up in respect of all the items to be referred to arbitration. They have been communicated to the N. F. P. T. for concurrence. As soon as they are received back, they will be forwarded to the Labour Ministry through the Home Ministry for necessary action. Delay is not on our part.

श्री शशि भूषण बाजपेयी (खारगोन) :
आदिबन्धियों और हरिजनों को आप किन्ने प्रतिशत ले रहे हैं ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : हरिजनों के बारे में मैं पहले भी कह चुका हूँ और फिर कहना चाहूँगा कि जितना भी अधिक संभव होगा उन्हें लिया जायेगा। जितनी भी रिआयत संभव होगी हम उन्हें देंगे।

There are two or three other points. Shri Masani made out certain points which were replied to by Shri Nambiar. In 1954 one policy was adopted regarding according recognition to unions. The rules framed in 1955, known as the Central Civil Service (Recognition of Service Association) Rules, 1959, had become inoperative on account of the Supreme Court judgement declaring rule 4(B) of the CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1955 on which they were based, as *ultra vires* of the Constitution. The Ministry of Home Affairs have therefore advised that no new union can be recognised till a new set of rules are framed.

But I want to make it clear here that we will have every sympathy for the workers of this Department.

Then, something was said about arrears etc. I admit that the billing system throughout the country is not upto the mark. We have tried our best to improve the system during the last one year. It has shown

some sign of improvement. I must congratulate the employees and the officers who have put in their best in it. There are a large number of categories of staff in our Department. We will see that some machinery is set up to look into all the things, the billing system, so that no subscriber has any grouse against the Department, the bills are sent in time and the payment is also adjusted in time. About the rebate system which we have introduced, Rs. 4 per bill, we will consider, after watching this Delhi system, to introduce it elsewhere also.

I must thank all the hon. Members who have participated in the debate and who are here at this late hour for their cooperation and I hope the Demands will be passed by the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I shall put all cut motions together.

All the cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : 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 to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1969, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 91 to 95, 135 and 136, relating to the Department of Communications.

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There was a Half-an-Hour Discussion to be raised by Shri Jyotirmoy Basu. He is absent. The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 A.M.

19.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, April 23, 1968| Vaisakha 3, 1890 (Saka)