

the legal battle has been going on. They have been pushed to this extreme of strike as a result of which the people there, are suffering. When postal services crumble in this manner of becoming paralysed, the people are also suffering.

Therefore, I would appeal to the Government and the Minister of Communications in particular, that let him realise that the telecommunication employees have been compelled to pay because of the Court Judgement. Why should these people be denied and why should they be forced to take recourse to a strike?

Therefore, immediately, this matter should be taken up. Their very legitimate demands should also be treated at par with other employees. They should also be paid the Special duty Allowance.

[*Translation*]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): I would like to add to it that the Special leave petition filed by the Government should be withdrawn. They, therefore, should hold negotiations.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat). Sir, a very important issue has been raised by Shri Somnath Chatterjee. The issue relates to the increase of prices. It was said during the Budget discussion, that the price increase was of a temporary nature and it is also of a seasonal character. I think, even several months after the Budget, the increase in prices continues unabated.

The Prime Minister is on record to say that special arrangements are being made for strengthening and expanding the Public Distribution System. Instead of further ex-

panding the Public Distribution System, the requisite amount of foodstuffs, kerosene oil and other essential commodities which are supplied through the Public Distribution System are not being supplied to the State Governments. In the list of the State Governments, I include the Governments of Kerala, Tripura, West Bengal and almost all the State Governments who run the Public Distribution System in any way. So, the price increase has not been halted. This price increase is due to the faulty economic policy of the Government of India. It is because the Government of India has accepted that policy at the behest of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to allow the monopolists and the multi-national corporations to plunder our country.

Therefore, I want that the Government should make a statement and you should also allow a discussion on the price situation in the country which has gone beyond limits.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE (Aurangabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through this House I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Communications to the telephone system at Aurangabad (Maharashtra). The equipments which have been procured from I.T.I. Rai Bareilly last year for the expansion of telephone exchange in Aurangabad are of inferior quality in comparison to those manufactured in I.T.I., Bangalore. As a result of it, I think, Telephone services in Aurangabad would not be improved even after its expansion. The Department which takes the policy decision in regard to installation of telephone exchanges has not yet sanctioned. The Exchange of 5000 telephone lines for Aurangabad.

Similarly, an exchange having 600 lines is going to be installed in Chikaldhana city of this district in which all equipments removed from Jalna are being used. I urge upon the