

**Shri Shahmawaz Khan:** No opportunity was considered necessary because so many lives had been lost and the whole country was very much agitated over it. We did not want to take any more risks in this matter.

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** May I know why the stocks were not offered to the consignees?

**Mr. Speaker:** In the meanwhile, some people would be destroyed. Before they come to take charge of it, some people may be blown up. That is what it would come to. We had a full dress debate here. Katpadi is 18 miles from the constituency of the Speaker and Renigunta is only six miles from Chittoor. There was a debate here. 21 lives were lost all over India. In one breath, we want him to take immediate steps and in the other breath we want to safeguard the interests of the consignors who deliberately send all sorts of crackers.

#### Employees of Telegraph Workshops

\*964. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether 7000 industrial workers working in telegraph workshops at Jabalpur, Alipore and Bombay are getting less leave and other facilities; and

(b) if so, whether any decision has since been taken to equate them with other class III employees of Posts and Telegraphs Department?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) The service conditions of industrial workers in the Posts and Telegraphs Workshops in the matters of leave and other facilities cannot be compared with those of regular employees as they are governed by different orders.

(b) The demand of the workers' Unions that they should be classified as Class III and IV employees of the Government and given similar leave and medical benefits has been brought

to the notice of the Commission of Enquiry, set up by Government to enquire into the structure of emoluments of Government servants.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Is it a fact that these industrial employees have not yet been classified as class III or IV employees and if so whether this matter is also being considered by the Pay Commission?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Industrial workers in the telegraph workshops are governed by the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 and the standing orders concerning them. Their terms and conditions of service are materially different from those of the regular Government employees who are governed by fundamental rules, supplementary rules and others which I need hardly enumerate.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether the industrial workers in the defence establishments have been granted 40 and 50 per cent permanency and quasi permanency? May I know whether the industrial employees have been granted quasi permanency?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I will require a separate notice for it but there is no dispute in regard to permanency. It is usually granted to the workers in accordance with their eligibility and stage of their service.

**Shri Anthony Pillai:** Is it not a fact that the other Central Government employees governed by the Factories Act are provided much more liberal facilities than provided to the industrial workers in the postal department and if so, why this discrimination?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The answer to this will lead me unnecessarily into a sort of a comparison. I have got a full statement and if need be, I can read it out. In some respects, they may be better and in other respects, they may not be.