

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : I know, Sir, and I am confining myself to this matter. I would like to know whether a categorical statement is going to be made by the Government or not. Why is this House kept in dark and why is a statement not being made? After all, whatever talks were held, we read about it in the Press. The Press briefings were there from the side of the Government; the Press have also collected a lot of material and they have published it. It has also appeared in the electronic media. Why is this House completely kept in dark? Why has the Government not taken note of this matter with all the seriousness at their command to report all the details to this august House? I would like to know whether the Government is going to make a categorical statement in this regard or not...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Govindan is the next speaker. Please listen to him.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, regarding the MPs' Scheme, the hon. Minister has already assured the House...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Govindan only.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargoda) : Sir, I would like to raise a matter relating to the postal employees' strike that is going on in Kerala. The reason for the strike is the denial of salaries by PMG, Kerala. It is also related to the Central Employees' struggle in October. But this is dead against the stand taken by the Government of India in connection with the Central Government employees' strike during last October. There were several occasions and examples when anti-labour and anti-employees attitude was displayed by PMG, Kerala. So, I request the Government of India and the Minister of Communications to intervene in this matter and to end this struggle. Otherwise, it would cause more difficulties to the people of Kerala...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Chaman Lal Gupta.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Recently, the Postal Department employees were on strike, and the order regarding payment of salaries to the striking workers during the period of strike was not clear because there was no leave due to the extra-departmental staff.

So, where from the period of strike would be deducted from their leave? That point should be clarified. The period of absence should be condoned. A clear instruction should be issued by the Government of India in regard to extra departmental staff. That period should be condoned at least for extra departmental staff.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with whatever Shri

Basudeb Acharia has said and I want to say that in Rajasthan too, the Extra Departmental Postal Employees are not getting salaries for the strike period whereas the regular employees are getting this salary. How these E.D. employees can be blamed for it? They were the ones who attended to the work even during the strike days, but the post offices were found closed. They were in favour of doing the work but could not do so due to the strike. In Rajasthan, the number of such employees runs into thousands and they are the ones who do most of the work of the Postal Department. To deny them salary for the strike period is a gross injustice to them. Therefore, through you, I would request the Government to issue orders to the concerned authorities without delay, to the effect that E.D. employees be paid salary for the strike period.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, tell the concerned Minister to issue orders to this effect so that E.D. employees could salary for the strike period.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has made his point fully clear.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : It will be better if you give some directive to the Government.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, give some directions to the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Paswanji, would you like to say something about the E.D. employees?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : I have taken note of hon. Member's view and I will convey it to the concerned Ministry.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jehanabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point or order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no point of order during zero hour.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. You are a senior Member.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House to an important issue. Yesterday, while Shri

* Not Recorded.

Paswanji was reading out a statement about the bomb explosion in a train at Ambala, at almost the same time, RDX weighing 30 kgs. contained in two bags was found near the rail track about 30 kms. from Jammu. The employees who detected these bags at 3.00 a.m. in the night should be rewarded so that other persons engaged in such work could be encouraged.

In Jammu-Kashmir, especially after the elections, infiltration from across the border has increased to such an extent that about 1000 to 1200-1300 foreign mercenaries have infiltrated into the State. Many persons are crossing over to Pakistan and the situation that is being created there as a result thereof is causing concern. The State Government is camping in Jammu and the Kashmir valley and Dada district have turned into safe hideouts for the terrorists. Off and on operations that were being carried out by the Army have been virtually stopped. The contention of the army is that unless these areas are declared totally disturbed areas, they will not carry out any operation. They also demanded that during the course of the operation, some Magistrate or local police official should accompany them. As a result, the situation is deteriorating day by day there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government have removed some of the check posts from there. The moment these check posts are removed, migration of the people starts. Through you, I would like to tell the House and the Government that this situation needs to be remedied.

Infiltration is increasing due to the laxity on the part of the Government. This needs to be attended to. The situation that was brought under control by the personnel of the security forces after letting a lot of blood should not be allowed to be deteriorated. The Central Government authorities should interact with the State and Army officials in an attempt to improve the situation. This is all I want to submit...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol) : You give chance to everyone, but not to us. Why so?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : By making noise, you would not get a chance. I have with me all the names.

[English]

I will call the names one by one. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You keep on shouting. It will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no use in shouting. A shouter will never get a chance. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

Not Recorded.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

The Programme Staff Association of All India Radio and Doordarshan is going to start its agitational programme from tomorrow, the 5th December. The President of the Association together with two representatives, one each from each branch, that is, All India Radio and Doordarshan, will be sitting on an indefinite hunger strike in front of Akashvani Bhavan from tomorrow. Simultaneously, all units throughout the country will go on with a relay hunger strike, gate meetings, propaganda etc. Their demand is about restoration of pay parity. The restoration of pay parity in the pay-scale of Transmission Executive and Engineering Assistants is being continuously projected before different authorities. We may recall that this matter also had figured in the last Session of the House. The hon. Minister in-charge of Information and Broadcasting had made a commitment to fulfil the legitimate demand of the Programme Staff Association. This has also been clearly stated in his reply given to the other House on 27th August, 1996. This reply was given in the Rajya Sabha. In spite of such assurances given by the Government, there is no restoration of pay parity. It has not materialised as yet. As a result, there is mounting discontentment among the members of the Staff of All India Radio and the Doordarshan. It is mounting up. It is going to find an expression in the form of hunger strike, agitation etc. which is not good for anybody.

Secondly, there are a large number of vacancies. They are also demanding the filling up of all such vacancies. Kindly realise that 730 posts in the programme cadre are remaining vacant. As a result, new stations are very inadequately manned. Also, some stations of All India Radio and some Kendras of Doordarshan are ready for commissioning. But because there is no sanctioned staff etc., they are not commissioned. They are not functioning. So, the position is like this.

There is also a legitimate demand with regard to promotion from their own cadre etc. So, these legitimate, long-standing and genuine demands have been asserted as such by the Minister concerned on the floor of the House. In spite of this, I do not know why such inordinate delay is there in the implementation of these things resulting in this type of an unpleasant situation throughout the country.

In view of the above, I would request the hon. Leader of the House, who is present here, to react to it. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, this is also going to be a serious matter right from tomorrow. There will be an indefinite hunger strike resorted to by these people...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You had your say. Please take your seat.