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Title: Reported move by postal workers to go on a nation wide indefinite strike w.e.f. 15.3.2005.

*m01

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Six lakh postal employees will go on strike from tomorrow. All the Unions have unitedly called for the strike. Their demand is for merger of 50 per cent DA with the salary of *Gram Dak Sevak*, who are Extra Departmental Employees, whose number is more than three lakhs. There are other demands like implementation of all agreed proposals. The agreement was reached twice. The agreements were signed by the Government representatives and by the representatives of all the Unions. But they were not implemented. In the past also they had to go on strike for three times and from tomorrow onwards about six lakh workers will go on strike.

We had a meeting with the hon. Prime Minister just now and he has also agreed. It is because a Committee of Secretaries was constituted. That Committee was given two months' time. The hon. Prime Minister has agreed to reduce it to 21 days.

So, I demand that all the pending demands, particularly the 50 per cent DA merger of Extra Departmental Employees should be implemented within 21 days. ...(*Interruptions*)

*m02

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : We support this demand. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to associate with him without giving a notice? I permit it because the cause is important.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): I am also associating with it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is very good. There is so much support to the workers cause.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, we are always concerned. Just now it was all talked about.

...(*Interruptions*)