

Title: Regarding closure and downgrading of post offices in the country.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (BADAGARA): Thank you, Sir. I am drawing the attention of this august House regarding the anti-people approach of the Post and Telegraph Department of the country by the closure and degradation of the post offices in all parts of the country which has created an alarming situation.

The organisations of the postal employees have started continuous agitation against the said decision and the people have started forming post office protection committees to protect the post offices and fight against the anti-people attitude of the Government.

The State of Kerala is the worst affected by this decision. In my constituency of Badagara, this has caused serious consequences in the three municipal areas of Vada-kara, Koyilandy and Thalassery. Four E.D. sub-post offices under the Vada-kara Postal Division have already been downgraded within a month and another eight post offices are being downgraded. Kadaloor, Naduvathur, Keezhariyur and Eyyad post offices have already been downgraded. Iringannur, Meppayil, Melur, Arikkulam, Palayadnada, Kodyura, Pathiyarakkara and Maniyur are the post offices that are being downgraded. Similarly Chirakkara and Moozhikara post offices in Thalassery Postal Division are facing the same problem.

If the sub-post offices are downgraded and detached from the head post office, there will not be the existence of the head post offices in these municipal areas. People of these localities are living in all parts of the country and abroad, seeking job opportunities. As a result of the closure and downgrading of these post offices, people living in outside areas will be deprived of the benefits of getting postal articles in future.

The employees working in the postal department are badly affected by this approach. The vacancies in the Department are not being filled for the last few years and the recent approach of closure and downgrading has created much unrest among the employees as a whole.

I, therefore, request the Government of India not to implement the decision without considering the serious impact it is going to create. The Postal authorities should be directed to withdraw from the action taken by them to that effect.