

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.