

House and the Government towards petrol pumps going on strike today which is very important issue. Price of petroleum products have increased during past years, charges of Bank Drafts have also increased and on account of this cost of petrol pumps have increased manifold in comparison to previous cost but their commission is not going to increase for the last 20 years. Their second demand is that petrol pumps are being challaned under Essential commodities (special amendment) Act and they are also being harrassed and exploited. Under the Essential Commodities (Special amendment Act petrol pumps are in amendment) Act petrol pumps are in full possession of Inspector's raj due to which they are in deep trouble.

On account of these two demands, petrol pumps are closed today all over the country. Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to tell the House that our Minister of Food and Minister of Civil Supplies had given an interview in the last week and it had appeared in the Newspapers also and they had also told me that it has been decided by the Cabinet that this amendment would be extended only for a period of one year more and it was also stated that they would slightly amend it but the Bill under consideration before us is for five years instead of one year. Now what sort of decision has been taken by the Cabinet about which it had appeared in the newspaper earlier that they are going to extend it only for one year period but now it has come for five years. In this way we have been betrayed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today all over the country petrol pumps are closed. Situation is very critical. We would like to draw the attention of the Government through you that Ministry of Petroleum should consider about their problem. Ministry of Petroleum should think over all these points like increase in commission and involvement of cost factor. I would like to again draw the attention of the Minister of Civil Supplies. Today the owners of petrol pumps are only on strike but on 8th August traders from all over the country will be coming to blockade Parliament House. The whole country will be closed on 26 August in protest against the Essential commodities amendment Bill. This is a very important issue. The Government must pay attention on this issue so that legitimate demands of traders should be fulfilled and they may not resort to agitation...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the petrol pump owners are responsible for spoiling petrol operated machines all over the country by adulteration and by selling adulterated petrol. They have created a cause of havoc through plunder in the entire country. Therefore, I request that their commission should not be raised...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for this purpose, there are different laws. If a person is caught for the crime of adulteration, he can be prosecuted and punished under the law but the matter

here under consideration is the issue of 3/7 ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanor) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Communications to an urgent matter of importance regarding the plight of ED employees who are working in the Department of Post. About three lakh persons in the Department of Post are categorised as ED employees. They got a very raw deal throughout these years. They have been treated as bonded labourers by the Department all these years. Time and again this matter has been raised on the floor of the House by the hon. Members cutting across political affiliations. Ultimately a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Justice Talwar. This Committee had submitted its Report some months ago. But, unfortunately, no action whatsoever has been taken by the hon. Minister to implement these recommendations. I appeal to the hon. Minister, through you, to implement the recommendations made by the Justice Talwar Committee without any further loss of time.

*[Translation]*

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV (Godda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I am requesting to the Cabinet to take a prompt and appropriate decision in the matter of anomalies created by the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission in the pay scales of Translators/Assistant Directors working in Raj Bhasha Service. Fifth Pay Commission has revised the pay scale of Technical Assistants working in Central Translation Bureau from Rs. 1400-2300 to Rs. 1640-2900 but pay scale (1400-2600) of Junior Translators working in Central Secretariat Raj Bhasha Service has not been revised.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, similarly the pay scales of Hindi teachers in Central Hindi Training Centre and Senior Translators in Central Translation Bureau, whose present pay scale is Rs. 1640-2900, have been recommended for revised scale of Rs. 2000-3500 whereas the pay scales of Rs. 1640-2900 for Senior Translators working in Central Secretariat Raj Bhasha Service has not been increased.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Department of Raj Bhasha (Ministry of Home Affairs) is the Headquarter whereas Central Hindi Training Centre and Central Translation Bureau are its subordinate offices. It is obvious that equivalent officers working in Headquarter have been kept not only in lower pay scale in comparison to the offices of same rank working in subordinate offices of that Department but it also create a unprecedented anomalies by keeping the pay scale of Gazetted post (Assistant Director) of Headquarter at par with the pay scales of Non-Gazetted post (Hindi teacher and Senior Translator).

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it may be worth mentioning here that in the beginning, the pay scales of junior translator working in Raj Bhasha Service and Assistants of Central Secretariat Service were same and pay scale of Senior Translator was comparatively higher but this tradition of equality came to an end by an order issued in July 1990 by the Department of Personnel and Training and Court entrusted the responsibility to maintain this tradition to the Fifth Pay Commission-but due attention was not paid as a result thereof aforementioned anomalies have arisen.

[Translation]

Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request you to kindly refer this case of giving equivalent pay-scales of Rs. 1640-2000/-, Rs. 2000-3500/- and Rs. 2200-4000/- to junior translators, senior translators and Assistant-Directors of Central Secretariat Official Language Service, respectively to recently constituted high-powered committee urgently by taking personal interest in it so that the pay-scales of employees in head-quarter and subordinate offices may be brought at par and it may not be referred to the Anomaly Committee so that unnecessary delay in the matter is avoided.

Deputy-Speaker, Sir, they are compelled to go on mass casual leave. I, therefore, want an immediate action in the matter.

SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the point raised by Shri Yadav is very important. Justice is not being done to Hindi translators. I can't understand how discrimination can be done in this regard. But the official language is being ignored, official language translators are ignored. We ourselves see here that the sittings of the House goes on and translators have to sit very late at night. At late hours, officers can easily reach at their homes in cars but translators have to run here and there in search of buses. If the plight of translators remain the same, we will not be able to have good translators and then the development of the Indian languages will get hindered.

Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want that this point should be considered in the light of recommendations of Pay Commission and the difficulties being faced by them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is a very important matter. The Government should pay attention to it.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee is on his legs. Please let him speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : On many occasions, the House sits late. It is true that the Members of Parliament and senior officers have transport facilities and other things. But apart from officers, we have employees and Parliamentary Reporters, many of whom are lady Reporters.

I have earlier also brought it to the notice of the hon. Speaker. Some inbuilt arrangement, not an *ad hoc* one, should be made that whenever the House sits late, the facility should be made available. It should be well-established.

Therefore, I am sure that the Chair will look into this.

AN HON. MEMBER : Some sort of a special conveyance allowance should be given...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like hon. Minister to say some thing in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Deputy-Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of official language is concerned, Official Language Act has already been enacted. In spite of all these things, the development of official language is not as much as it should have been. It is a matter of shame and regret for us that even after 50 years of independence, such a matter has to be raised. This question has just been raised by the hon. Member and also supported by the leader of the opposition and voiced by members of almost all sides. Therefore, we will certainly bring this matter to the notice of the Government and would see that the difficulties therein are removed...(Interruptions) If Government is not there then why are you sitting here...(Interruption)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : You will convey it to the Government...(Interruptions). You are the Government...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Shri Ram Vilas Paswan needs to be told that he himself is the Government. Government is not something separate...(Interruptions).

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Who is the Government and whether Government is a separate entity? Shri Ram Vilas Paswan says that he would bring it to the notice of the Government. Where is the Government, where does it live and what is its name?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please let Shri Thomas speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I am speaking in the House now in the capacity of the Leader of the House. Speaking as a part of the Government. But Government is the Government.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, I would like to bring to your notice a very very important fact.