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Title: Demand to take action to implement the recommendations of the Talwar Committee in respect of the extra-departmental employees of the Postal Department.

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. Through this Special Mention of the Zero Hour, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the pathetic plight and problems faced by over three lakh Extra-Departmental Postal employees who have been suffering as bonded labour for the past 50 years.

Sir, there had been four Committees to look into their problems and the Supreme Court also, in the year 1977, gave a verdict that these people are not agents, but they are civil servants. The Parliamentary Committee also had recommended pensionary benefits and service benefits to be given to them, but nothing was implemented.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vaiko, there are 35 names. I have to call all the names. So, please be brief.

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI): Sir, I will take only two minutes.

Therefore, in the year 1995 a Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Justice Charanjit Singh Chauhan and that Committee had already submitted its recommendations. The paramount recommendation was to change the nomenclature from Extra-Departmental Postal System to Rural Postal System and from Extra-Departmental Postal Employees to Rural Postal Employees.

Sir, the Committee has also recommended that the condition for appointment, that is, adequate independent livelihood, is constitutionally invalid and that it should be deleted. So, it is high time that the Government should implement the recommendations of the Talwar Committee, at least, in the Golden Jubilee Year of our Independence so that these people will be emancipated from the bonded system. Thank you.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jogi, I am going by the list that is before me.

">SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, when all the unions of the Postal Department went on strike in the month of December 1994, the then Minister of Communications made a statement on the floor of the House that a Committee would be constituted to examine the demands of three lakh extra-departmental employees of the Postal Department. Even after 50 years of our Independence, the slavery system is still continuing. These extra-departmental employees are getting only Rs. 700 per month. Their demand was to have a pay-scale and, therefore, the Talwar Committee was constituted. This Committee had submitted its recommendations long back, but the Government is yet to implement the recommendations of the Talwar Committee. Still, the slavery system is continuing.

The Finance Minister is here and I demand that he should respond to this. How long will these extra-departmental employees of the Postal Department have to suffer? Why are the recommendations of the Talwar Committee not being implemented although they were submitted long back? The recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission in respect of the Central Government employees have already been implemented, but these three lakh extra-departmental employees of the Postal Department are deprived.

I demand that the Government of India should take immediate action to implement the recommendations of the Talwar Committee in respect of the extra-departmental employees of the Postal Department.

">SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Sir, we also support this very serious issue. This was discussed day before yesterday also.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, please take your seat.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, the day before yesterday, this issue was discussed. The Finance Minister is present here and we would like to have a response from him.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Shri Jag Mohan to speak.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only the speech of Shri Jag Mohan will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I have called Shri Jag Mohan.

SHRI JAG MOHAN (NEW DELHI): Sir, in my letter the point that I had made was that Shri Gujral, in his speech, had made some observations which were untenable. I have written to him and I would like to wait for his reply. So, for two days, you may kindly defer this request of mine as I am yet to receive his reply, or else I will give a fresh notice after that. Sir, I have endorsed a copy of my letter to you.

MR. SPEAKER: I will go through it.

* Not Recorded.