

lower rate (about Rs. 800).

- (vii) **Need to issue directions to Jammu and Kashmir Government to release salary of Government employees who have migrated from Kashmir Valley to Jammu** (1402377)

[English]

SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO (Anantnag): Among thousands of migrants from Kashmir Valley, there are quite a few hundreds who were salaried Government employees of various departments including low-paid police officials and men of fire-fighting force. They had to flee with members of their families and have now been in Jammu since middle of March, 1990 while State employees of various departments have been given their salaries periodically even after long delays, these officers of the police and fire-fighting services have not been paid their salary dues since 1.4.1990. They are not entitled to any financial relief since they are Government employees. The employees have been on hunger strike for quite some days now at Jammu and members of their families are on the verge of starvation. Directions are required to be issued, to State Government for release of pay for these starving families immediately to end their agony of these unfortunate citizens of the country.

- (viii) **Need to increase the capacity of Nagpur Telephone exchange by 15000 additional lines** (1402377)

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I draw the attention of the House towards the poor performance of the Nagpur Telephone Exchange. Major part of the development of any region in the country depends upon the functioning of the telephone system. Tele-

phone facility has a major role in the development of Industry and business in and in strengthening the economy of the region.

Nagpur Telephone Exchange was converted into Electronic Exchange some time back and there was hope to the persons who were in waiting list. The Government has set up the Electronic Exchange and scrapped the earlier one. Due to commissioning of the new Electronic Telephone Exchange at Nagpur, there was hope among the people who were in waiting list to get the lines, but now the position is totally reversed. The waiting list is mounting day by day. New lines have not been provided due to which Industry and business development of the city is retarded.

In view of this there is urgency to expand the main Nagpur Telephone Exchange immediately by additional 15000 lines.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we adjourn for lunch till five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

1306 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

*The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at nine minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

[SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE *in the Chair*]

RE. SITUATION IN PUNJAB

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Madam Chairman, I wish to bring

[Sh. Somnath Chatterjee]

to the notice of this hon. House that more than thirty thousand people have assembled at the Boat Club. They have come from Punjab and they are holding a *Dharna* which is being organised by the CPI (M) and CPI. They have demanded an early solution to the serious problem that is facing the people of Punjab and which is not only affecting peace and normalcy but is also affecting the unity and integrity of the country. They have also demanded that the Government should take up a firm policy and should give up the policy of drift and *ad hocism* which is only complicating the situation. Therefore, I demand and I wish to reflect the views of the people who are holding the 'dharna' and they are genuinely concerned and they are demanding from the Government an early solution to this matter. I hope the Government will respond to this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Lokanath Coudhury, you wanted to speak on this subject. So, I allow you to make your submission.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Madam, on the call given by both CPM and CPI parties, about 30,000 people have come from Punjab and they have assembled in the Boat Club. They are having their 'dharna' and they are demanding that the Government must immediately take a firm policy. The situation in Punjab is getting worse. Punjab issue should be considered as a national issue. The Government should immediately take note of it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI L. K. ADVANI (New Delhi): Madam Chairman, whenever discussions on Punjab took place in the House, I found that my colleagues belonging to C.P.I.(M) were on the same wave length as we were. I would like to submit in regard to the issue raised by

Somnathji that high hopes were raised and a new atmosphere was created after the installation of the new Government. Had ad hoc decisions not been taken and concrete and right steps were taken, the situation would have improved a lot during the last 7-8 months. I am pained to say that the situation did not improve as was expected rather situation in Punjab deteriorated further. The situation has worsened not only due to killings but also due to the ransom and kidnappings. As a result, migration from Punjab has again started and a large number of people alongwith their members of family are sitting over dharna with heavy heart. They are demonstrating today. I also associate with them and would like to request that the Government should stop taking adhoc measures and adopt a concrete policy and the border should be sealed. You should protect these people from ransom, kidnapping and killings.

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: (Tripura West): Madam, on Punjab issue, our party is always demanding a firm plan of action from this Government. I am glad that today this matter has been raised by Shri Somnath Chatterjee. The Left parties have always played a very good role. During our time also we appreciated their role and our leaders have in the past acknowledged it. Unfortunately, the situation is going worse day by day and the interference from across the border has increased and the death toll is daily raising more than 25. It is a very serious situation and Government are not taking any firm action and not discussing with other political parties. I appreciate the movement that has been done today by the Left parties. I welcome it. But at the same time, I would like to urge upon the Government to take all the parties into confidence It is a national issue, not a regional issue and it is an All-India issue. Some positive steps should be taken so that the situation does

not get worsened in Punjab.

SHRI CHITTABASU (Barasat): Madam, I would like to congratulate the great people of Punjab who have come all the way from different parts of India and assembled in the Boat Club to draw the attention of the Parliament and also through the Parliament the nation as a whole that the solution to the Punjab problem does not get further delayed.

Madam, as has been pointed by many that despite some indication of improvement about 7 or 8 months ago, particularly after the initiative taken by the Prime Minister of the country by visiting Punjab several times, the situation, of late, has further deteriorated and it causes great concern to the people of the country and of course, great concern to all the parties who want that the unity and integrity of the country should be strengthened, maintained and preserved and all forces which are working against the unity of the country are to be defeated. Therefore, Madam, it is very much necessary that the Government should take fresh initiative to bring about the political solution of the problem. Madam, it is not time to take much of the time of the House. I allow other distinguished colleagues to speak. I also urge upon the Government to see that they take fresh initiative and along with taking very strong and stern measures to combat the secessionist forces, some initiative should be taken at this stage for the political solution of this problem. Thank you.

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling): Madam Chairman, I join my other friends in the House to strongly urge for the need for a clear-cut policy on Punjab. (*Interruptions*). The situation has unfortunately grown..... (*Interruptions*). The situation over the last few months has become a lot more grave and I would like to urge upon the Government particularly to convene..... (*Interrup-*

*tions*). Madam Chairman, I would like particularly to urge upon the Government to convene all-party meeting and not merely a meeting of the major political parties to hammer out a possible solution. Much time has already been wasted and therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government to come out with a clear-cut policy.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH (Lucknow): Madam Chairman, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the leaders of various political parties in the House today. I wish to underline the fact that since the talk of revival of the State Assembly has begun there are legal luminaries also present in this House, before the High Court delivers the judgment people have already started calculating the number of Members belonging to this group of the Akali Dal or to that group of the Akali Dal. There are conjectures going around as to who will take over the reins of Administration as Chief Minister and so on, whether they would like to go in for coalition or not. When all this thrash talk is being published daily in national newspapers, I personally feel, and probably most Members of the Janata Dal also feel, as also other members of the other sections of the House and essentially I again reiterate what I have said earlier, this is my personal feeling that since this chapter has begun regarding the so-called revival of the Assembly by some order of the High Court which is yet to come, that added a new dimension to the problem and the aspiring politicians, budding politicians, who want to capture seats of power, are also manipulating things in their own way and they are probably becoming more active by giving protection or encouragement or abetment to the heinous crimes, call them kidnapping or ransom or loot, the talk of the revival of the Assembly by these budding politicians must come to a halt.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM(Sivaganga):  
What is the idea that the High Court will  
revive the Assembly?

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: Before the  
High Court pronounces the judgment, what  
is the sense? What is that politician talking?  
Who is that politician? Let us identify them,  
who can pre-judge the decision of the Punjab  
and Haryana High Court. I am simply hinting  
that this kind of a situation and propaganda  
has aggravated the issue in spite of the best  
intentions of the rulers today and in spite of  
the sentiments expressed by the Prime  
Minister regarding his visit to villages and  
also about the healing touch. Now, every-  
body talks about the revival of the political  
process in Punjab and Kashmir. Let us not  
talk about Kashmir for a while; let us talk only  
about Punjab. What do you mean by the  
revival of political exercise? I do not know  
whether the so-called revival of the Assem-  
bly is coming about or not. It is in the womb  
of the future. Who is presuming as to what  
the High Court is going to do? That is the  
current main cause which has aggravated  
the situation. I again express my solidarity  
with the sentiments expressed by various  
leaders and various sections of the House. I  
would like to suggest that merely by deliver-  
ing sentimental and emotional speeches in  
the House, the political process in Punjab  
cannot begin. Let us muster courage to go to  
every village and township in Punjab with  
this message of peace and solidarity and  
without mustering courage on our part, no  
tall talk is going to deliver the goods.

07-56  
14.22 hrs.

Bill (C)

PRASAR BHARATI (BROADCASTING  
CORPORATION OF INDIA) BILL - Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we move on to

further consideration of the Prasar Bharati  
Bill, Motion for consideration of which was  
moved by Shri Upendra on 21st August 90.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga):  
Madam, before you call upon the next  
speaker, I would like to make one point. Last  
Friday, it was suggested that the Govern-  
ment should call us and consider our amend-  
ments. The Minister for Information and  
Broadcasting was kind enough to call us. We  
discussed with him for about an hour-and-a-  
half. We explained to him each of our amend-  
ments. Now, except for a brief telephone call  
which he made to some of us yesterday,  
where he said they are still considering and  
there are some difficulties, we do not yet  
have a formal answer from the Government.  
What we read is only in the newspapers that  
the Government was not going to accept  
these amendment and the Government had  
difficulty in accepting those amendments.  
We expected that there would be a discus-  
sion and the entire House said that if the  
Congress Party wants a discussion, what is  
the harm in discussing. Now, we have dis-  
cussed with the Government; we have ex-  
plained our amendments. Why should the  
Government fight shy of calling us to tell us  
whether they are accepting our amendments  
or not? If they are accepting, they should tell  
us whether they are accepting with or with-  
out modifications. Why should we have to  
know about them from the newspapers when  
we have briefed them about our amend-  
ments. I think, this is treating us with scant  
respect and treating us with a great deal of  
casualness. All the parties have supported;  
Advaniji and Somnathji said that if the Con-  
gress Party is serious about pressing its  
amendments, why don't they have a serious  
discussion? We have had a serious discus-  
sion. Why can't they give us a serious an-  
swer? I am told this debate will go upto 4.00  
p.m. and at 4.00 p.m. the Kuwait debate will  
start. But, I still think the Government should  
take us more seriously and consider our  
amendments and give us answer to those