

freeze. In the past the sample tests conducted by Polio Vaccine Testing Laboratory had revealed that the vaccine used had an astonishingly high potency loss varying from 20 to 99 per cent. For instance, the vaccine used by the CGHS hospital at Lajpatnagar in Delhi had a potency loss of 96 per cent. The potency of vaccine at the BHEL hospital in Bhopal and at a drug firm in Delhi was virtually zero. On the basis of such tests permission was not given to several centres including Moolchand Hospital in Delhi for storage and use of polio vaccine.

In the absence of quality control following the closure of Polio Vaccine Testing Laboratory, the de-recognised centres have begun stocking polio vaccine which does not give any protection to children. It is, therefore, very necessary that the laboratory should be immediately opened in the interest of the health of the children and the de-recognised centres should be asked not to store polio vaccine. The Hon'ble Minister of Health should make a statement in this respect and announce the opening of the laboratory.

(v) SUSPENSION OF PASSENGER TRAINS IN GANGANAGAR DISTRICT OF RAJASTHAN DUE TO SHORTAGE OF COAL

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (JAI-PUR): The sudden suspension of some passenger trains in the District of Ganganagar in Rajasthan has exposed the people particularly belonging to the rural area to great hardship. On November 11, 1980, two trains which go from Nauhar to Sadulpur and from Nauhar to Hanumangarh were suspended for an indefinite period. It may be mentioned in this connection that in the past also these trains used to be suspended without notice and were resumed only when people agitated for it. It is understood that the present suspension has been done because of shortage of coal. I would therefore request the Railway Minister that he should personally try to look into the matter

and help the supply of coal so that these two trains are made to run.

I may mention in this connection that the area through which the trains travel is backward and this communication line greatly helps the poor farmers and small traders to earn their livelihood and long suspension of these two trains will very seriously affect their economic condition.

I trust and hope that the Railway Minister will do the needful in the matter without much delay.

(vi) PROBLEM OF ALL INDIA TELEGRAPH TRAFFIC EMPLOYEES

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur): On November 12, 1980, the employees of the different Telegraph Offices in the country under the call of All India Telegraph Traffic Employees Union—Class III and Class IV staged a one-day dharna and demonstration to draw the attention of the public and of the authorities to the apathetic attitude of the P&T Department towards improving the efficiency of the Telegraph services and to impress upon the Central Government the necessity for expeditious settlement of the problems faced by the Telegraph Traffic staff. There are now acute shortages of both operative and clerical staff in the different offices as there is almost total stoppage of recruitment for nearly 10 years. Understaffing is a chronic disease in the telegraph offices while the country is facing an ever increasing unemployment problem. Though liberalised standard for staff strengthening is recommended by the staff inspection unit its implementation has been delayed by the P&T Department. The introduction of Hindustan Teleprinter machines has aggravated the problem because of the inherent defects in the machines. No attempts are being made by the department to rectify the defects inspite of repeated representations made by the staff. Inefficient channels provide another hurdle to rendering efficient service. Substandard forms and gums are also adding to the inefficient functioning

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

of the services. Even chairs in adequate numbers are not supplied to the staff. The problem has also been aggravated by the recent decision of the department to put a total ban on employment of overtime duty. The very nature of the job is such that even with 100 per cent staff strength, offices like the big Central telegraph offices cannot run efficiently without employment on overtime duty to transmit the five telegrams consequent on declaration of resumption of circuits/stations after removal of machines and channel faults. Problem of manning circuits and points has increased two fold necessitating the despatch of telegrams by hand or by post in thousands. The movement launched by the employees is not for the restoration of the system of overtime duty, but for providing facilities by the department to the employees so that they may render service to the people's satisfaction. Telegraph services is one of the essential public service and it should be the concern of all, primarily of the government to provide adequate facilities to the staff so that public interest may not suffer. Today the situation is such that thousands of telegram are being sent by post from one office to another or by hand from one station to another. The movement launched by the All India Telegraph Traffic Employees Union is not for the purpose of realising any economic demands, but to draw the attention of the authorities to the serious problem which are being faced by the employees in the discharge of their duties due to the callous and insensitive attitude on the part of the administration in providing the minimum facilities for the staff for proper discharge of their duties. Demonstration was held at many offices throughout the country on April 15, 1980 to invite the attention of the authorities but it has had no effect. The P & T Department, instead of

discharging its responsibilities, is seeking to rouse public opinion against the employees and alleging that the ban on overtime duty is the cause of deterioration in telegraph services thereby trying to absolve their responsibilities to the public. A peaceful movement has been held by the employees recently and I call upon the government to taken immediate steps to redress the grievances of the employees so that the efficiency of the telegraph service is improved and for that purpose to hold discussions with the employees represented by their union for achieving maximum cooperation between the department and the employees.

(vii) AGITATION BY I.I.T. EMPLOYEES
OF KHARAGPUR.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore): A serious situation has developed in the IIT campus at Kharagpur due to agitation by the IIT employees for securing some of their long standing demands. Relay hunger strike was going on from 11-11-1980. Now since 24-11-1980 indefinite hunger strike by the employees has been started. The present Director is not at all serious regarding negotiating with the employees. The director has not only not conceded any new demands; he has even curtailed some of the old rights of the employees. The situation is very tense. The government must immediately intervene or else the situation will lead to further trouble in the IIT campus.

15.20 hrs

HIGH COURT AND SUPREME
COURT JUDGES (CONDITIONS OF
SERVICE) AMENDMENT
BILL—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved