

[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