

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The next item is "Communications".

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS SHRI P. VENKTATASUBBAIAH): There is a vacuum there. I know that he need not take my permission.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Professor, do you want to raise a point of order?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I want to raise a point of order, with your permission.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am permitting you.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: With the good offices of the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, no. You have got to take the permission. That is the rule.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: My point of order is that the matter which the Hon. Member just now raised, was also raised at 12 O'Clock when the Speaker was in the Chair. And at that time, Shri Indrajit Gupta had requested that the Supreme Court has already delivered the judgment and, in terms of that judgment, it is obligatory on the part of the Government to make the payment of bonus to Class III and Class IV employees of LIC. At that time, he gave the reply. It is on record that "We will examine the matter". As far as the judgment of the Supreme Court is concerned, it is not left to the option of the parties concerned to examine or consider. It is obligatory on the part of the parties to the dispute to see that it is implemented. Therefore, my point of order is this. Is it not obligatory on the part of the Government. . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Point of order under what rule, Sir?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Under rule 376. We have learnt it

by heart; having stayed here for eight to ten years, we remember all that. My point of order is under rule 376. Is it not obligatory on the part of the Government to see that the judgment of the Supreme Court is implemented? That is exactly what he has raised through 377. . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I was also in the House. This was raised by Mr. Indrajit Gupta during Zero Hour. I remember the Speaker saying that he cannot direct the Government to make a statement. That is what I also tell you now on your point of order.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Please see the record. I can reproduce the words. My memory may not be as sharp as yours. Still I remember. . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The speaker said. . .

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: After that, the Minister said that 'the matter is under examination'. You can check up from the record.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Then you can raise it tomorrow. (Interruptions) I cannot go into the decision of the Speaker or the ruling of the Speaker, whatever he has said. I heard the Speaker saying that he cannot direct the Government to make a statement.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Anyway, your advice or direction to me is that I should postpone the point of order. All right. I will raise it tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Next item.

15.12 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1981-82—  
*contd.*

Ministry of Communications—*contd.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Arjun Sethi to continue his speech.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, yesterday I was pointing out some of the specific

lacunae which breed inefficiency and sometimes corruption in the the P&T Department as a whole. I have stated earlier that the recruitment procedure of the P & T Department is defective because it takes three to six months to fill up the vacancies. Similarly, the rules of the Department are also defective; they allow an employee to remain absent for three to seven days, after which he can produce a medical certificate to the authorities concerned and that too from an unauthorised medical practitioner. Since these rules are old and obsolete, why should Government not think of amending these rules according to our requirement and according to the new changes that have taken place.

Similarly, as other hon. Members have mentioned here, Government is paying Rs. 27 crores per annum as overtime allowance to its employees. In this context, may I ask the hon. Minister to think of appointing new hands, so that, in a way the growing unemployment problem in our country can be solved and at the same time this overtime payment will also no longer be there.

As the other hon. Members have also mentioned here, so far as the telephone system is concerned, we have been depending on foreign knowhow and we import a lot to man our telephone exchanges and other offices. In this context would say that the foreign equipment which are being imported into the country and are being placed for the working of the telephone exchanges, etc., are not quite conducive to our climate and are not sufficient to our requirements. So, I like to request the hon. Minister that he should go in for more indigenous production so that our dependence on foreign know-how or imports is minimised.

Lastly, I would like to point out some specific problems of my State and the Orissa Circle. The other day, Madam Prime Minister visited our State and many people met her and the eminent editor of Oriya daily, the *Samaj*, Dr. Rath, submitted a memo-

randum pointing out all the difficulties and the chaotic conditions that are prevalent in our Circle. I should draw the attention of the hon House as well as the Minister that since six months we have no full-time General Manager of the Tele-communications Circle there and one Director of Tele-communications is in charge. He is there since the last five years and against him there is a lot of complaints and corruption charges and I am told the CBI is also against him. So, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is going to post a new General Manager at the earliest so that this problem of corruption, and the problem of chaotic condition of the Telephone Department is over.

Similarly, the PMG post—I have seen at least from 1971 till to-day most of the time was lying vacant. Recently one person was appointed and I have nothing to say against him I must say that he is an efficient officer. But if the staff over which he is presiding are not efficient, then I should say one man cannot do everything and rectify the things in the Department. So far as the opening of PCOs and Telephone Exchanges are concerned, since one year many PCOs and Telephone Exchange have been sanctioned but no Telephone Exchanges are being opened or PCOs being commissioned for the benefit of the people there. So I like to request the hon. Minister that at least he must see that these problems are rectified at the earliest.

Sir, we made a request to the previous Government as also to the present Government and we were assured so many times that the proposed telephone factory will be set up at Bhubaneswar but nothing is being done. So I request the Minister that action should be taken immediately to set up the factory at Bhubaneswar at the earliest to fulfil the wishes of the people of the State.

\*SHRI D. S. A. SIVAPRAKASAM (Tirunelveli): Hon. Mr. Deputy Spea-

\*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[Shri D. S. A. Sivaprakasam]

ker, Sir, while welcoming and extending my support to the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Communications for 1981-82, I wish to make a few suggestions. I may be permitted to say that I am not making these suggestions for the sake of coming on the records of Lok Sabha nor for getting publicity in the newspapers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whether you like it or not, whatever you say will come on record of the Lok Sabha and it will also be coered in the newspapers.

SHRI D. S. A. SIVAPRAKASAM: I commend the efforts being made by the Communications Ministry to connect all the important towns of the country with the micro-wave system. Microwave stations have been established in many places. Unfortunately, the place in which this has to be installed in Ramanathapuram in Tamilnadu belonged to a private individual who took the dispute to a court of law. Now the judicial decision has come in favour of the Government, but that private individual has got the stay from the higher court. The Government should take steps to get the stay vacated, if necessary even by amending the concerned legislation for this specific purpose.

The Postal Savings Scheme is being taken advantage of by the rural people. They put whatever little they save in the Savings Accounts of Post Office. They do this reposing their faith in the Government and not because of the postal employees. I would give the example of how the postal employees in the Post Office in Sikkal, Ramanathapuram District who has absconded with the money deposited in the SB Accounts. Now the Department is reluctant to refund the money to the small depositors. The Government should direct the Department to refund the money to the small depositors and they should not be punished for the defalcation of a postal employee. Some two years before there was

acute shortage of postal covers, cards, certificate of posting forms etc. Now the position has improved. It must be ensured that such shortages do not recur in future.

My hon. senior colleague Shri Kosalram had desired to know through Unstarred Question No. 3673 on 16-3-1981 as to the names of district towns where the manually operated telephone system is in existence. From the reply you will find that in 1300 towns manually operated telephone exchange system is in operation out of which 148 district towns also are covered by this system. This is as it obtains on 31-3-1980. It is regrettable that still 148 district towns have manually operated exchange system. In Tamil Nadu, Nagercoil, Cuddalore, Thanjavur and Tirunelveli, and Pondicherry, the capital of the Union Territory of Pondicherry have manually operated telephone exchanges. I do not know the specifications prescribed for a town to have an automatic exchange. Some 12 years before a building was constructed in Tirunelveli for having an automatic exchange. The equipment also reached the bulding. But, somehow the equipment was diverted to some other place and to-day the building is in a dilapidated condition. I demand that Tirunelveli should have an automatic exchange without further delay. In North Arcot District, Tirupattur is the business hub and there is every need for having an automatic exchange and also STD facility. Neiveli, which is known internationally for the lignite, also deserves special consideration in the matter of having an automatic exchange and STD facility. My senior colleage, Shri Maya Thevar has been repeatedly stressing the need for having an automatic exchange and the STD facility in Dindigul. This should also be looked into by the hon. Minister.

I would now draw the attention of the house to the working of Telephone Department in the capital city of India. On 28-3-1981 at 10 AM I booked an urgent call to Tirunelveli and since till 5 PM I did not get the connection, I cancelled it. On 29-3-81

at about 8.45 PM I booked again another urgent call and till 11.30 P.M. the call did not materialise. I had to cancel it. As I had to talk urgently with some people in Tirunelveli on 30-3-81 I booked an urgent call at 7.30 A.M. I waited till 10.30 A.M. for the call to materialise. Then I converted this into a lightning call and at 11.30 I got this lightning call. Such inordinate delays should be avoided. My place Mukkodai is about 12 miles away from Tirunelveli. If I book a call to Tirunelveli about 1½ to 2 hours. If I ask the officials for the delay, the reply is 'the line is out of order'. These problems should be resolved without further delay.

Delhi is an international city. The Telephone Department employees seem to know only Hindi and it is becoming increasingly difficult for us who do not know Hindi to have communication with these people. I am sure that the same problem is being faced by foreign dignitaries who want to contact their counterparts abroad. The Telephone Department employees must be made to know English along with Hindi, particularly those posted in Delhi, so that the subscribers are not put to avoidable hardships.

I was glad to find in the Performance Budget that 14 places are being given STD connections. I do not know the stipulations for giving STD facility. If Tirunelveli happens to fulfil these conditions, then the STD connection should be given to Tirunelveli. On page 327 of the Book detailing the Demands for Grants, some new schemes have been enumerated. But against each scheme the remark given is 'sanction not yet accorded'. If that is so, why should be mentioned at all in the Demands for Grants? I request the hon. Minister to clarify this point.

The Express Delivery System was very useful to the traders and businessmen. I demand that this system should be revived. I am staying in Meena Bagh. I went to the Udyog Bhavan Post Office with an airmail envelope and sought the advice of the

gentlemen there as to how much stamp I have to affix for sending it to Sri Lanka. I was given 90 paise stamp which I affixed and posted it. When I came back home, I was dismayed to find from my diary that I should have affixed 1.75 stamp for the cover to Sri Lanka. Such employees should be given proper and sound training in these matters.

I welcome the bonus being given to the postal employees. I demand that the bonus should also be given to the postal employees who opt for Army Postal Service. Presently they are not getting bonus. Similarly, when others get 20 per cent deputation allowance, those postal employees who opt for Army Postal Service get only 10 per cent deputation allowance. I demand that they should be given 20 per cent deputation allowance.

On 3-3-1981 a telegram was sent to me from Bilaspur in Madhya Pradesh. I got this on 5-3-81 after a delay of 29 hours. There is no need to stress that such delays should be avoided in the matter of telegrams.

Under Demand no. 14, in the 1980-1981 original estimate for the Ministry of Communications was Rs. 12.50 crores and the revised estimate was 12.26 crores. The reason adduced for the shortfall of Rs. 24 lakhs was due to reduced provision for machinery and equipment. Similarly under Demand no. 18, the original estimate was Rs. 451 crores for Capital Outlay on Posts and Telegraphs and the revised estimate was Rs. 410 crores. The shortfall of Rs. 40 crores has been explained as due to slippages in the supplies of stores and shortfall in the imports of telecommunication equipment etc. In 1981-82 the provision is of the order of Rs. 512 crores. I demand that no such shortfall should take place in the revised estimate of 1981-82. 1600 new post offices are to be opened during 1981-82. This should be done without fail. Besides this, the Extra-Departmental Post Offices throughout the length and breadth of the country should be made whole-time Offices. The salaries

[Shri D. S. A. Sivaprakasam]

of the part-time employees in these offices should be revised suitably. When we demand that the private sector should pay adequate salary, it should be ensured that the Government also pays adequate salary to its employees.

Indian commemoration stamps are so beautiful that they have become prized possessions all over the world. The first-day cancellation covers are also in great demand. Since India has become the paradise of a philatelist, it must be ensured that the first day covers are not despoiled and the cancellation should be done carefully, so that the value is not lost.

With these words I conclude my speech.

#### COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

##### TWENTIETH REPORT

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now the House will take up Private Members' Business. Mr. Ramnath Dubey.

SHRI RAMNATH DUBEY (Banda): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twentieth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 1st April, 1981."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twentieth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 1st April, 1981."

*The motion was adopted.*

15.33 hrs.

#### SOIL CONSERVATION BILL\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Bills to be introduced. Dr. Pandit.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection of land resources against soil erosion, and for other purposes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection of land resources against soil erosion, and for other purposes."

*The motion was adopted.*

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

#### CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL\*

*(Insertion of new article 48B, etc.)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH (Surendranagar): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Next one also in your name.

#### COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES BILL\*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH (Surendranagar): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory registration of all marriages in India.

\*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 3-4-1981.