

be discussed and we should get a reply as these incidents are going on for the last so many years. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: These are happening in West Bengal also. Why don't you discuss about West Bengal then? (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (Mukundapuram): Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to raise an important matter regarding the ED employees connected with the Postal Department all over the country. The ED employees, even after completing 20 or more years of meritorious service, are not getting job security and other facilities. So, I urge upon the Government to regularise their service.

Simultaneously, the promised second promotion, after completing 26 years of service in the Postal Department, is also not implemented except in the Engineering Section of the Department. This matter also may be looked into. If the Dearness Allowance exceeds 50 per cent of the basic pay, then that excess may be added to the basic pay of that employee so that he or she may get the opportunity to have a slight increase in the pension after he or she retires.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Sir, I want to bring to your notice a very tragic incident which has taken place in Chilakaluripeta in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh. Two farmers were killed when they were in the queue to get the fertilizers. In fact, I went to the village of one the persons who died. A small farmer having a small hut, Mr. Ankamma Choudhury was killed in Kavuru village of Guntur District was killed. Several farmers are critically ill in the hospital and many more have received bullet injuries. The police are shooting the farmers like birds. The hon. Finance Minister, while replying to the Budget discussions, should give a categorical

assurance that the Government would continue the subsidies on fertilizers. This is a peak period when farmers require fertilizers. Otherwise, this is going to bring about a lot of turmoil throughout the country and many more farmers have to lay their lives. I appeal to the Government to make a concrete and categorical assurance that they will continue to give the subsidy and come to the rescue of the farmers.

12.36 hrs.

RE. REINSTATEMENT OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Apart from supporting Shri Rao, I wish to raise the question of the Railway Minister's assurance of sympathetic consideration of the cases of the dismissed railway employees whose reinstatement was earlier announced by the previous Government. We wanted the Railway Minister to implement that decision. In the course of his reply to the Railway Budget, he has stated that he would consider it sympathetically. We wanted an answer then and there, but he said that he had to go to the Cabinet first and all those formalities had to be gone through. So far as this Government is concerned, I hope there is a functioning Cabinet. Anyway, we said that we would wait till the first of August. Today is the Fifth of August. I would like to know what the hon. Minister has to say on this. Will that decision be implemented? When will it be implemented? We want a categorical reply today and he must announce it. We agreed to wait because of your kind intervention on that day when you said that some time might be given to them to go through the modalities. Now, about 10 to 12 days have elapsed and I would request the hon. Minister to announce it today. He must tell us the date on which they would be reinstated.