

General Kaul. The hon. Minister has taken 15 to 20 minutes but he has not met any of the points raised by hon. Members. The answer must be precise and to the point.

Shri Swaran Singh: I am very sorry that the hon. Member thinks that away. Because a large number of points had been made, I put them under various headings and have tried to give our view with regard to those points. We will go into all these matters in greater detail and at an appropriate time will inform this hon. House of the action that we have taken.

Shri Kanwarial Gupta (Delhi Sadar): The Untold Story remains untold.

Shri A. K. Sen (Calcutta North West): We wanted to put a few questions.

Mr. Speaker: Now it is too late. You cannot re-open the whole question now.

Shri Randhir Singh (Rohtak): I rose in my seat half a dozen times.

Mr. Speaker: There is no question of rising. Those who had given notice had been called.

Shri Randhir Singh: I have a very pertinent question.

Mr. Speaker: Now it is too late. The half-an-hour debate cannot be continued for more than an hour.

श्री मधु लिखड़े : उन्होंने किसी प्रश्न का जवाब नहीं दिया। जब टोका तो कहा बाद में कहेंगे और बाद में बैठ गए।

श्री रणधीर सिंह : इस किताब की छपाई बन्द करवा देनी चाहिए। इस आदमी ने फौज में पार्टीबाजी फैलायी, चारों तरफ हिन्दुस्तान का नाम बदनाम कर दिया, नेफा में हमारे कितने ही हजार आदमी मरवा दिए और अब किताब लिख कर अपने को निर्दोष साबित करना चाहता है। इन को जेल में डाल देना चाहिए।

Mr. Speaker: If you are not satisfied, there are other methods of eliciting further information. The rules are there. You can certainly ask for

further information. There is no difficulty about that. There are so many occasions, the President's Address, the General Budget and so on, when these general issues can be raised. Here, the questions were asked by about a dozen Members and he answered them. If I allow further questions, then we will not be able to finish it. I have allowed everybody who gave notice of this half-an-hour discussion to put a question. If you are not satisfied, there are other methods of doing it. (*Interruption*).

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: The Indian Army is getting demoralised.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. We now go to the next item. Shri Vajpayee.

Shri Randhir Singh: We want an assurance from the Minister that some action will be taken against the General.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE (Contd.)

WORK TO RULE CAMPAIGN BY THE TELE-
 GRAPHISTS AND SENDING OF TELEGRAMS
 BY POST

18.22 hrs.

श्री प्रदल बिहारी राजपेयी (बलरामपुर): आज सवेरे मैंने संचार मन्त्री का ध्यान दिलाया था डाक और तार विभाग के कर्मचारियों ने नियमानुसार काम करने का एक अभियान चलाया था और मेरे ध्यान दिलाने वाले नोटिस के जवाब में मन्त्री महोदय ने एक वक्तव्य दिया था। मैं उनसे दो सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ। 27 दिसम्बर से यह अभियान चला और इस अभियान के दौरान में एक हजार अस्थायी कर्मचारियों को नौकरी से हटाने का नोटिस दिया गया और कर्मचारी संघ के लगभग सौ पदाधिकारियों को उन के पद से मुह्तल किया गया। मैं मन्त्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या नियम के अनुसार काम करना ज़ुर्म है? और अगर ज़ुर्म नहीं है तो इन कर्मचारियों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही क्यों की गई? और अब जब कर्मचारी संघ ने

[श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी]

अपना आन्दोलन वापस ले लिया है मैं मन्त्री महोदय से यह आश्वासन चाहूँगा कि इस अभियान के दौरान मैं जिन कर्मचारियों या कर्मचारी संघ के पदाधिकारियों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही की गई थी क्या वह कार्यवाही वापस ले ली जायगी और क्या मन्त्री महोदय यह आश्वासन देंगे कि अभियान के भाग लेने के लिए किसी के विरुद्ध कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की जायगी ?

संसदीय कार्य तथा संचार मन्त्री (डा० राज सुभग सिंह) : किसी के प्रति कोई विक्तिमाद्देशन नहीं होगा ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : कर्मचारियों की मुख्य मांगे यह थी कि उनका वेतन मान जो अभी 110 रुपये से 240 रुपये तक है उसे बढ़ा कर 150 रुपये से 300 रुपये तक कर दिया जाय । मन्त्री महोदय ने अपने वक्तव्य में कारण दिए हैं कि जिनसे यह मांग मानी नहीं गई, लेकिन मुझे ऐसा पता लगा है कि मन्त्री महोदय ने वेतन वृद्धि की मांग को आर्बी-ट्रेशन को सौंपने का सुझाव स्वीकार कर लिया है । क्या मेरी जानकारी सही है ? क्या यह मामला आर्बीट्रेशन को सौंपा जायगा और क्या कर्मचारी संघ से विचार विनिमय कर के कौन आर्बीट्रटर बनेगा यह तय किया जायगा ?

ड० राज सुभग सिंह : अटल मे इन सारी बातों को ऐसे किसी व्यक्ति के सुपुर्द करने की बात हम लोग सोच रहे हैं और कायदे के अनुकूल ऐसा किया जायगा ।

Shri P. K. Deo (Kalahandi): In view of the fact that lately most of the telegrams are being sent by post and in view of the assurance given by the previous Minister in the Consultative Committee that the charges paid for telegrams would be refunded to the senders if these telegrams are sent by post may I know whether any action has been taken in this regard and if any refund has been made to

any sender in case his telegram has been sent by post?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: We will find out the position. It is a fact that some telegrams were sent by post, but as I said, there will be no victimisation. It will be on both the sides.

Shri P. K. Deo: My question is for refund of money to the sender.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: As I said, there would not be any victimisation. Due to that agitation, some telegrams had under compulsion, to be sent by post. So, I think we should forget all those affairs and start everything *de novo*

Shri K. P. Singh Deo (Dhenkanal): Does it no amount to misappropriation of Public funds or cheating, if the public are expected to pay for the telegrams which do not go as telegrams but are sent by post and they do not get back the refund?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It does not amount to misappropriation, nor does it amount to cheating. We want to create a better atmosphere; some better atmosphere has already been created and it will continue to be created

Shri E. K. Nayanar (Palbhat): May I know whether the Government issued a large number of notices of termination of services—I have received telegrams from employees from Calicut and from a number of other places in Kerala—of the telegraphic employees who started the work-to-rule movement and if so what is the total number of employees on whom such notices were served? Is it also a fact that the DGPT issued a show-cause notice to the All India Telegraphic Employees Union, Class III, asking why its recognition should not be withdrawn? May I know the attitude of the Government in this regard?

Shri Nambiar: With regard to recognition.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Actually I had replied to that in reply to the supplementary put by Mr. Vajpayee, though that supplementary was not so specific. It was said that about 1,000 employees were suspended. That is not correct, because notices were issued to about 300—maybe, a little more or less. But, as I said, we do not intend victimising anybody and there would not be any difficulty in future.

Shri E. K. Nayanar: I have received telegrams

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I will inquire into it.

Shri Umanath (Pudukkottai): The question has not been answered whether he DGPT has issued specific show-cause notice on the Union to show cause why its recognition should not be withdrawn. Is it proceeding? Now that the Minister has said that there will be no victimisation, I understand that the processes of negotiations between the parties have been restored. In view of this, will the hon. Minister let me know whether that show-cause notice on the Union about withdrawal of recognition, is being withdrawn or is being proposed to be withdrawn? I want a specific answer.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Anything that was done during the course of the movement, after the unconditional withdrawal of that agitation, will be withdrawn.

Shri C. K. Chakrapani (Ponnani): Will the Minister kindly explain whether the AITTEU, class III, has served a notice demanding higher pay scale for telegraphists, namely, Rs. 150—300, on par with the telegraphists in other organisations of the Government of India like Overseas Communications Service, External Affairs Ministry, Home Ministry, Press Information Bureau, etc.?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: That is their demand. But the service conditions are different. Everything, as I said earlier, will be referred to the arbitrator.

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Kasergod): The Minister has already said that, after the agreement, so far as the suspension notices are concerned, they will be withdrawn. According to a telegram I have received, it is not only a question of withdrawal of suspension notices, but other vindictive measures may be taken, as far as Calicut, Trivandrum and other places are concerned, after withdrawal. When there is an agreement and they are withdrawn, even though notices of suspension may not be given, there are many other vindictive things—transfer and other things—that can be done. Such vindictive measures may be taken. Will the Minister kindly instruct the officers concerned that no kind of vindictive action should be taken? Again, they have also said that if this is done, there will be a breakdown of telecommunications; whatever agreement is there, that agreement cannot be fulfilled because after the agreement, vindictive measures are taken; suspension is also made.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I straightaway assure this House that there would not be any victimisation after the assurance and anything that might have happened during the course of the agitation and which might amount to victimisation will be done away with.

Shri V. V. Menon (Ernakulam): After the withdrawal of the Work-to-Rule agitation, I have got information that ten workers were suspended in Ernakulam.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has given an assurance already, that it would not be done. Therefore, the hon. Member must be satisfied with that. What is the use of repeating it?

Shri P. P. Esthose (Muvattupuzha): Is it a fact that the Director-General himself violated Rules 39 and 40 of the P & T Manual, Vol. II and issued instructions to treat the period of leave supported by an authorised medical certificate as *dies non*, thus affecting the valuable service of the employees and wages during January and February, 1967?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: This will be looked into.

Shri K. M. Abraham (Kottayam): Is it not a fact that all these punitive steps are being taken by the Department because the All India Telegraph Traffic Employees Union (Class III) directed its members to work according to rules till their just demand of pay-scale revision in comparison with the pay scales of similar categories in the Government is conceded? Was not the action of Government a deliberate neglect with regard to a service so essential to the public?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I do not accept that there is any action on our part which is a deliberate neglect, because the actions that have been taken

are taken in pursuance of the rules that exist and the successive Pay Commissions have fixed the remuneration of different categories of Government employees. However, I have tried my best to see that nothing happens due to this agitations, which might go against the interests of the employees.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has given a categorical assurance that there will be no victimisation and all that, and hon. Members ought to be satisfied with that.

18.33 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, March 28, 1967/Chaitra 7, 1889 (Saka).