

शुद्धी नहीं है कि इस तरह से हाउस की जो रगलर कार्यवाही चल रही हो उसको प्रोन्सट्रक्ट किया जाय। माननीय सदस्यों को कार्यवाही में इस तरह से बाधा नहीं डालना चाहिए। मि० बी० के० दास।

श्री श्रींकार लाल बोरषा : हाउस में आने के बाद हमें यह सूचना मिलती है कि हमारा कॉलिंग एटेंशन नोटिस नामंजूर कर दिया गया है। अगर हमें उस बारे में पहले सूचना मिल जाये तो हम हाउस में जित्र न करें।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह बात माननीय सदस्य ने बहुत अच्छी कही है। लेकिन मैं उनको बतलाऊं कि जब मैं हाउस में चलने को तैयार होता हूं तो यह नोटिसेज मुझे मिलते रहते हैं और यह तब तक मुझे मिलते रहते हैं जब तक मार्शल यह नहीं कहता कि हाउस के अन्दर चलने का समय हो गया है और मैं अपनी कुर्सी छोड़ कर खड़ा नहीं हो जाता। ऐसी हालत में मैं आपको पहले सूचना कैसे दे सकता हूं। उस बारे में सूचना तो आप लोगों को बाद में ही किसी बत मिलेगी।

श्री बृजराज सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय ..

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आर्डर, आर्डर।

श्री बृजराज सिंह : मैं केवल आधा मिनट ही लूंगा। यह लोकमत का सवाल है। पार्टी बेसिस पर यह डिस्कस नहीं होना चाहिए बल्कि जो महत्वपूर्ण विषय हो उस पर विचार होना चाहिए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब कौन महत्वपूर्ण है और कौन महत्वपूर्ण नहीं है इसका फैसला कोई माननीय सदस्यों को तो करना नहीं है। यह हो सकता है कि माननीय सदस्य की राय में उन्होंने जिसका नोटिस दिया है वह सबसे अधिक महत्वपूर्ण विषय हो लेकिन उसके लिए वे मुझे मिलें और मुझे उस बारे में कर्नाइस करने की कोशिश करें।

श्री बृजराज सिंह : पार्टी बेसिस पर आपने कहा कि यह नोटिसेज लाये जायें तो मेरा कहना है कि चूंकि कोई नोटिस पार्टी बेसिस पर आया है इसलिए वह महत्वपूर्ण हो जाएगा तो पार्टी की बेसिस पर तो उसका महत्व बनता नहीं है बल्कि

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब हर एक इंसि विजएल मेम्बर ने तो इस बारे में फैसला करना नहीं है। किसी ने तो उस पर फैसला लेना ही है। सदन ने मुझे यह अधिकार दिया है कि मैं इस बारे में फैसला करूँ और मैं उन पर फैसला लेना हूँ। आपने ही मुझे इसका अधिकार दिया है। अगर आप ऐसा नहीं चाहते तो हाउस वह अधिकार मुझसे छीन ले मुझे कोई आपत्ति नहीं।

श्री कछवाय (देवास) : दो नोटिस जो कि दम बजे के पहले दिये गये थे उनका तो जवाब आना चाहिए

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं इसकी दृष्टांत नहीं दे सकता कि आप इस तरह से बीच में हकावट डालें।

12.04 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS
—contd.

Mr. Speaker: Further discussion and Voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs and also the cut motions moved.

We have 2 hours and 25 minutes left. How long will the hon. Minister take?

The Minister of Law (Shri A K. Sen): About 30 or 40 minutes at the most.

Mr. Speaker: I will call him at 2 P.M. Shri B. K. Das may continue his speech.

Shri B. K. Das (Contai): The hon. Deputy Minister indicated yesterday that in the matter of telephones, the number in the registered waiting list is 2.4 lakhs. He also pointed out that it did not reflect the potential demand, because the demand will certainly go up with industrial and other developments in the States, but he did not give any indication as to how this demand was to be met. He only said that some steps would be taken during the Fourth Plan.

The number of new telephone connections that are being installed every year is to the tune of 65,000. At this rate, it will take at least four years to make up the backlog that is there at present. I think that some active steps should be taken so that something can be done even during the period of the Third Plan.

The number in the waiting list for Telex is about 1,000. We are in short supply of cables, telephone materials, teleprinters etc. We have got the Telephone Industries at Bangalore, the teleprinter factory in Madras and also the cable factory at Roopnarainpur. There is scope for expansion of all these factories, and I think that more units should also be established in respect of telephone, teleprinter and cable manufacture. I hope that planning will be done from now on so that in future we shall be able to make up the backlog that is there at present, and be able to meet the demands at least to a certain extent.

There is a complaints organisation working under this Ministry, which takes note of the complaints placed before the different circles and disposes of them. In 1963 there were 6,42,203 complaints, of which 6,28,406 were disposed of; that is, at the end of the year there were 13,897 complaints in arrears. In 1960, 1961 and 1962 also there were certain arrears. If we add them up, we find that at the end of 1963 the number of com-

plaints in arrears would be something like 18,000. I think complaints should be enquired into more speedily, and there should not be arrears to this extent. I have experience of a complaint relating to the Orissa Circle regarding a money order made last April, but nothing has been done about it so far. From the figures given in the Report we find that the total number of complaints is growing, but the percentage of complaints has not gone up. In 1962, it was 0.0119 per cent, and in 1963 it has not gone up. It remains the same.

Lastly, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to two matters which have been, I believe, placed before him. The first is about the RMS section starting from and terminating at Howrah which should be placed under the West Bengal PMG circle. This matter was presented long ago, as far back as 1960, and since then no final decision has been taken. I hope the hon. Minister will look into this matter.

The other matter which requires consideration is about the postal administration of the Howrah town post office and sub-offices. The representation is about placing them under the Calcutta administration. I hope the hon. Minister will look into this matter also.

श्री ना० नि० पटेल (बुलसार्)

अध्यक्ष महोदय, डाक और तार विभाग का मैं स्वागत करता हूँ और इस विभाग के जो छोटे-बड़े कर्मचारी हैं, उनको मैं अभिनन्दन देता हूँ। अभिनन्दन देने की वजह यह है कि इस देश में पोस्ट्स एंड टेलीग्राफ्स, पुलिस और रेलवेज, ये तीन डिपार्टमेंट ऐसे हैं, जिनका इस देश के लोगों के साथ गहरा नाता है। इन तीनों डिपार्टमेंट्स में पोस्ट्स एंड टेलीग्राफ्स डिपार्टमेंट ऐसा विभाग है, जिसके कर्मचारियों को उन की तन्हाह के सिवाय दूसरी कोई आमदनी नहीं है।

जो दूसरे दो डिपार्टमेंट हैं—पुलिस और रेल-वेज, उनका छूटे-बड़े कर्मचारियों को, अगर वे चाहें, तो एक या दूसरी तरह कुछ न कुछ मिल सकता है, मगर डाक और तार विभाग के जो कर्मचारि हैं, जो बेचारे पॉस्टमैन पांच पांच, सात सात मन्जिल चढ़ कर डाक की डिलिवरी करते हैं, उनका कोई अतिरिक्त आमदनी नहीं है। वैसे कभी कोई खुशी से कुछ दीवाली, हॉली पर बक्षीश दे दे, तो ठीक है, नहीं तो उन की और कोई आमदनी नहीं है। वास्तव में अगर हम देखें, तो पॉस्टमैन को तीन तीन चार चार मील पैदल चलना पड़ता है और धूप में, बारिश में, हर एक सीजन में, काम करना पड़ता है।

मगर यही एक डिपार्टमेंट ऐसा है, जिसके कर्मचारियों के लिये सुविधाओं की बहुत कमी है। सारे सदन में—रूलिंग पार्टी के मेम्बरों ने भी और ओपोज़िशन पार्टी के मेम्बरों ने भी—इस बात का समर्थन किग है कि इन कर्मचारियों के लिये सुविधायें नहीं हैं। अगर हम रेलवे कर्मचारियों को और देखें, तो मालूम होता है कि उन लोगों के रहने के लिए मकानों, दवाखानों और उनके बच्चों की पढ़ाई के लिये हर किस्म की अच्छी सुविधायें हैं, मगर डाक और तार विभाग के कर्मचारियों के लिये इस बारे में कोई अच्छी सुविधायें नहीं हैं। मेरी खास तौर से यह प्रार्थना है कि इन लोगों के लिए जल्दी से जल्दी कुछ सुविधायें उपलब्ध की जायें।

यहां टेलीफोन के बारे में बार-बार बहुत सी शिकायतें होती हैं। मैं भी शिकायत करता था। मगर एक बार मुझे यहां दिल्ली के एक टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज में जाने का मौका मिला। मैंने वहां देखा कि जिस ढंग से वे कर्मचारी काम करते हैं, उस ढंग से काम करना बड़ा मुश्किल है। वहां पर जगह बहुत छोटी है और इसलिये गर्मी के दिनों में इतने अधिक स्टाफ के लिए वहां पर काम करने

में बहुत परेशानी होती है। मेरा तो सुझाव है कि उस जगह को एयर कन्डीशनिंग करना चाहिए, ताकि वे लोग अच्छी तरह से काम कर सकें।

एक्सचेंज में जो लेडी अपरेटर्ज काम करती हैं, उनके रिटायरिंग रूम को मैंने देखा। जितनी जगह में उन लोगों का रहना और सोना पड़ता है,

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य लेडीज के रिटायरिंग रूम में क्यों चले गये ?

श्री ना० नि० पटेल : वह वहां एक्सचेंज में है। मुझे बताया गया है। मैंने सोचा कि देखा जाये कि उनके रिटायरिंग रूम में क्या व्यवस्था है। अगर कोई हॉटन वाला इतनी जगह में इतनी एकामंडेशन दे, तो उसका लाइसेंस भी खत्म कर दिया जाये, लेकिन गवर्नमेंट के कर्मचारियों के लिये इस प्रकार की असन्तोषजनक व्यवस्था की जाती है, यह कोई अच्छी बात नहीं है।

विरोधी दल के माननीय सदस्य, श्री याज्ञिक, ने भी कल बताया कि गुजरात सर्कल में छूटे छूटे देहातों में भी पॉस्ट आफिसिज का इन्तजाम हो रहा है और गुजरात में जिस ढंग से काम चल रहा है, वह बड़ा अच्छा है। मगर वहां के लोगों की, खास तौर से जो टेलीफोन अपरेटर्ज हैं, उनकी एक बड़ी शिकायत है। गुजरात सर्कल में जो टेलीफोन अपरेटर्ज हैं, वे महाराष्ट्र, मैसूर वगैरह दूसरी स्टेट्स के कर्मचारी हैं। उन लोगों को अपनी कम पगार में दो दो एस्टाब्लिशमेंट्स रखनी पड़ती हैं। चूंकि वहां पर लोगों के बच्चों की पढ़ाई के लिये बड़ी दिक्कत होती है, इसलिए उनको दो दो एस्टाब्लिशमेंट्स रखनी पड़ती हैं। मेरा सुझाव है कि जो ऐसे अपरेटर्ज वहां पर हैं, अगर सम्भव हो, तो उनको उनके डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में ट्रांसफर कर देना चाहिए।

[श्री ना० नि० पटेल]

हमारे यहां सूरत प्रापर में बड़े पोस्ट आफिस का जो काम चल रहा है, मेरा खयाल है कि वह काम कोई जल्दी पूरा नहीं होगा। बिल्डिंग का काम अभी चल रहा है, मगर वह जल्दी से पूरा होना चाहिए। वहां पर इंस्ट्रुमेंट्स वगैरह की प्रगति दिन-प्रति-दिन ज्यादा हो रही है। चूंकि वहां पर हर एक जगह पर छोटे छोटे पोस्ट आफिसिज होने की वजह से बड़े पोस्ट आफिस की जरूरत थी, इसलिए यह काम हाथ में लिया गया है। मगर वह काम धीमी गति से चल रहा है। मेरा सुझाव है कि उसको जल्दी से पूरा करना चाहिए।

बुनसार के लिए भी एक बड़ा पोस्ट आफिस मन्जूर हुआ है। हम पूछते हैं, तो कहा जाता है कि उसका एस्टीमेट तैयार हो रहा है। मगर आज करीब करीब तीन साल हो गए हैं, किन्तु उसका काम चालू नहीं हुआ है। मेरी प्रार्थना है कि उस पर भी पूरा ध्यान देकर वह काम जल्दी चालू करने का प्रयत्न करना चाहिए।

हमारे यहां गुजरात में अब पंचायतों द्वारा सब काम चल रहा है। ग्राम पंचायतों के लिए तो मैं नहीं कहता लेकिन ताल्लुका पंचायतों से टेलीफोन की मांग आ रही है और प्रायः हर एक जगह से आ रही है। वहां सामान की कमी होने के कारण टेलीफोन देने में देरी हो रही है। मैंने पता चलाने की कोशिश की तो मुझे यहीं बताया गया कि मैटीरियल की कमी है। मैटीरियल में पोल्ट्र की बहुत कमी है। इन पोल्ट्र की कमी को दूर करने के लिए मैं एक सुझाव देना चाहता हूं। वहां पर डैंग के फारेस्ट हैं। उन फारेस्ट के अन्दर से पोल्ट्र के लिए बहुत सी लकड़ी आपको मिल सकती है। पोल्ट्र की कमी हो तो लकड़ी के पोल्ट्र लगा कर जल्दी से जल्दी हर एक ताल्लुका पंचायत को,

जिसको टेलीफोन की मांग हो, टेलीफोन दिये जाने चाहियें।

पोस्टमैन इत्यादि को पहले ड्रेस इत्यादि, बर्दी इत्यादि समय पर मिल जाया करती थी। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता है कि क्या अब पोस्टमैन को यूनिफार्म देने में ढील हो रही है। खास करके पोस्टमैन की ड्रेस का आपको इन्तजाम जल्दी से जल्दी कर देना चाहिये, उनको तो समय पर आपको बर्दी दे देनी चाहिये।

Shri Warior (Trichur): Sir, I shall open my remarks on these Demands by referring, again, to the tender accepted of the Bell Telephone Company. More things have come to light. Yesterday, the Deputy Minister was pleased to explain certain facts brought forward in this debate. But there are more facts to be cleared, and it is a serious matter which cannot be explained away like that.

Sir, the telephone system is, of course, a very convenient communication system for the advancement of the country, for our industries and for our other purposes. At the same time, it has also a very great strategic importance because all our messages in regard to our defence, our economic matters and our planning in general go through this system. We know that the technically advanced countries have advanced much in this respect. They are using the telephone system and telecommunication system for intelligence purposes. In that matter we are only novices, and we do not know in what ways these things are operated because the know-how is with the foreigners.

This matter about the Bell Telephone Company was raised here as a Short Notice Question and the hon. Minister was pleased to reply at that time without giving the real facts of

the matter. The Bell Telephone Company is only a subsidiary of the American Telephones. The other companies are the French Company and the Italian Company.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshanabad): Swiss and Japanese.

Shri Warrior: Swiss and Japanese also. This is an international network.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Swedish rather.

Shri Warrior: No, not Swedish. This is under the control of the American telephone system. What happened in Tunisia was that this company was only entrusted with the laying of cables. They only know about the laying of cables. It is not the laying of cables for which the contract is given here, but the contract is for the cross-bar telephone exchange. Both are different. Here the Minister should be able to tell us whether this company has got any experience at all in this particular department of cross-bar exchange system. We would like to know whether they are manufacturing it or they are only transferring the contract for the installation of these to one of their sister companies, either the French Company or the Italian Company. That point must be cleared. Again, it was the French company that was blacklisted in Tunisia—that is true—and not this company. But they are sister companies—one is Belgium and the other is French. If it is not the French it must go to the Italian Company. So the matter is very much complicated in that way. Also, this contract is not for the laying of cables. It is for installation of equipment, and therefore we say that this company should not be given the contract. If the Government had taken some pains—I do not know whether they did take any pains—to know from at least the friendly Tunisian Government what this company's ante-

cedents are then they would have realised that the company is not above blame. We would like to know whether they are experienced in this line and whether they were implicated in the French company's affair in Tunisia. We have got here photostat copies of the Tunisian papers but, unfortunately, they are in French. All these go to show that they are not above blame.

Then, on technical know-how the foreign technical personnel will be in charge of the exchange system for a number of years until our own technical hands take over the work from them. Now, suppose the Defence Ministry gives a message which is secret to one of its offices through the exchange. That can very easily be connected by a link wire with American or other intelligence department that is operating here. As we all know, every country is operating some agency, whether legal or illegal, for intelligence purposes in every other country. Therefore, if for technical know-how we depend upon these people entirely, how are we sure that these messages are not transmitted to those countries which are not so friendly as they pose to us? So, the question of security arrangement is also involved in this matter. I hope the Government will be in a position to clarify that point.

Then, I want to know whether this company has got any research and development department of its own. Because, in a state of emergency, we do not know what will happen in future. Suppose we are not able to get the results of the research department of the company with which we are entering into a contract, whom can we depend upon in an emergency? That is a very important question. They may bolt away and some other company may not be able to come into the picture. So, particular attention has to be paid to that aspect also, especially when we are in an emergency.

[Shri Warrior]

The Minister has stated that the experts in the Ministry have examined the tender. I wish to know whether all the experts have agreed unanimously on accepting this tender or there was some over-riding opinion by somebody and actually some people who had disagreed on this contract had to keep mum or they were silenced. I wish to know that because my information is that it was not a unanimous decision and it was not accepted by all. Particularly the gentleman whose name the Minister mentioned when the question was raised here, Shri Vasudevan, it is reported, has over-ruled the opinion of the technical experts. I do not know whether Shri Vasudevan has got the technical capacity—I am not referring to the political capacity—to over-rule the opinion of technical people. Anyhow, things like that have come to light. So, I wish to know from the Minister whether this is true or not.

Then, again, there is another serious doubt. Though notice of this question was given much earlier, before the Cabinet could take a decision, accidentally or otherwise, it was not possible for us to raise it before the Cabinet took the decision. Sir, you know the history of this question. The question came up in the House after the Cabinet took a final decision in the matter. If only the question had been raised earlier, I think the Cabinet would have been apprised of the consequences and implications of the decision and, quite likely, it would have taken a different view; I do not know. Anyway, I wish to know whether the Cabinet was unanimous, whether the Cabinet was informed of all the details, whether the Government have got reports from the friendly Tunisian Government to place before the Cabinet before a decision was taken in this matter.

Mr. Speaker He cannot know whether the Cabinet was unanimous or not.

Shri Warrior: It might have been divided or unanimous. What opinions were expressed there? I would also like to know whether all the reports were made available to the Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker: That cannot be disclosed here.

Shri Warrior: I am sorry for that. They are protected, no doubt; but we are not protected like that; that is the difficulty.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya: I believe it cannot be discussed here too.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It can be discussed here if it is disclosed.

Mr. Speaker: If somebody asks what the opinion of a particular Minister of the Cabinet was, it cannot be given here. That information will not be available.

Shri Warrior: Last time when this question was discussed, the Minister was pleased to say that there would be a saving of about Rs. 40 lakhs by the acceptance of this tender. I do not know the exact amount. But the point is whether in the long run this will result in a saving or the cost of production will be more. There are certain equipments which can be supplied at a lower rate but in the working of those equipments the cost of production might be much more than the cost of production of other equipments which might initially be costing a bit more. I do not know that. I think, the hon. Minister can clarify that point also as to whether the Government had received any appraisal of the cost of production and the whole scheme of production with their time schedule and target and compared that with the data contained in the offers of other companies.

Then, I wish to know what was the expert opinion about the other tenders. Were those tenders vetted and screened by the same expert opinion or only this company's tender had gone through all those processes?

What was the opinion of the experts regarding the offers from the other companies, like, the Japanese or the Swedish company?

Then, is it a fact that in this affair the P. & T. Board was not taken into confidence? There is a serious talk going on that the P. & T. Board was not actually consulted or taken into confidence in the earlier stages itself and that the whole thing was hatched up afterwards for a final approval or something. It was put through or got through.

I will also request the Ministry and for that matter the whole Government to review the whole position before the finalisation of the tender and the acceptance of the offer. If it is not possible to do anything like that at present, then they should see to it that we do not have a repetition of the experiences of the Tunisian Government whereby our most vital information and intelligence is leaked out through some other technical methods to other countries which may now be very favourable or not so very favourable or semi-favourable but afterwards not favourable at all. That is as much as the Bell Company is concerned.

Coming to the system of budgeting, in the P. & T. also more or less the same system is followed and there is always overbudgeting. The PAC in its Ninetieth Report had caustically remarked that this should not be so. I hope, this will also be looked into by the Ministry because in this Report they have said . . .

श्री कृष्णाय (देवास): अग्र्यस्त महोदय,
सदन में कोरम नहीं है।

Mr. Speaker: The bell is being rung. Now there is quorum.

Shri Warrior: Shall I begin?

Mr. Speaker: He has now to conclude and not begin.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): He has to begin after the quorum bell.

Shri Warrior: I will leave this question of budgeting. Some hon. Members have said that there is chronic under-estimation of revenue. The PAC in its Ninetieth Report, on page 2, has particularly remarked about that and, I hope, the Ministry will be pleased to look into that.

Coming to certain demands of the employees, that also must be presented. Much has already been said about the RMS staff and I do not cover all those points. As regards the outstation allowance, instead of giving incentives and encouragement to workers, whatever existed there has been taken away. For instance, formerly for the first six hours it was computed as eight hours' day work; that means one hour and 20 minutes for every hour that they had to work in the night. But now that minimum has been raised to ten hours and anything less than ten hours is paid only on the basis of one hour and ten minutes for every hour. Why should those ten minutes be taken away from the workers and why are they not given allowance for that?

Another thing is that this allowance of 50 nP. is the maximum allowance for the sorters. It had been fixed in 1952 after long discussion and expert opinion. Now things have changed very much. This sum of 50 nP. is intended to cover extra expenditure incurred by those people in the RMS who go in the trains and work out of station. Out-of-station allowance is intended for those extra expenses on food and travelling from their residence to the station etc. 50 nP. will be very inadequate. Everybody knows that. So, it must be reviewed and some enhancement must be made in it.

It is also necessary that other categories who also get lesser than this should also be taken into consideration. For the first six hours this outstation allowance is not given. RMS:

[Shri Warior]

sorters or other people who go and work in those trains in which they can return within six hours to their own station are not given the allowance. Why should they be stingy? I do not know. They are also doing the same job and it is only a question of a few hours. Although these people may or may not return, they are not given this allowance. I think, this must be extended to them also.

About the extra-departmental staff, in many States the recommendation of the Rajan Committee has not been implemented properly. That complaint has come from the employees of the P. & T. This department constitutes one of the major branches of the P. & T. Department. There are about 2 lakh people engaged in different categories in different States. In Orissa, Bengal, Andhra and Central Circle particularly these recommendations contained in the Rajan Committee's Report are not implemented properly; as also in certain parts of UP. That is the complaint. This must be looked into.

Not only that, these allowances for the extra-departmental employees were fixed some four or five years ago. It is high time that it is reviewed and some enhancement is made. It is also given to our other categories of employees and this extra-departmental staff should not be left alone.

Only one point more and I will finish. The extra-departmental staff also comes within the purview of the Conduct Rules, rule 5. Rule 5 says that the employee can be summarily dismissed; the only thing is that there is a provision in rule 6 for giving them an opportunity to give a petition or appeal. No opportunity is provided to them to answer the charges made against them to defend themselves and to explain their position and get justice. If rule 5 is made applicable to the extra-departmental staff, I think, it is quite reasonable that some

provision must be made to give them permanency of tenure.

With these words, I conclude.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Jalore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to spotlight your attention and the attention of the House only on two points. When the P. & T. Board was constituted, many of us here gave expression to our doubt about this half-way house that we are going to have. We gave our views on that matter and the Minister in-charge, when he announced this policy decision, was good enough to tell us and assure the House that he would make a review after about a year's time and let the House know about the functioning of it. We have had absolutely no such review. I would rather like the hon. Minister to tell us how the promise given by his predecessor is to be judged, whether they have taken any review about the functioning of the P. & T. Board.

Sir, so far as my information goes, nothing to do with the constitution as it is, there is an atmosphere of dirty intrigue at the top-most level in the P. & T. Board. It is really unfortunate. If the head of the P. & T. organisation itself is something to which a strong exception can be taken, then you can imagine it will reflect throughout the Department. I would like to invite your attention to the fact that one of the Members of the Board has already asked for a premature retirement. It is a very serious matter. He is one of the senior most officers. Why does he ask for premature retirement? I also understand that the seniority of all the Members is going to be disturbed and there is seething discontent among the Members. This had been decided three years earlier. I hope the hon. Minister will give a judicious and a judicial look into the matter and assure the Board and assure the House that nothing which cannot stand the scrutiny will be done in the Board and demoralise the Board.

I also understand that recently during this emergency an additional post of a Member was created and all justifications were given but then immediately after six months the post was abolished as if it was a child's fun or as if the assessment of work of a Member could not have been judged earlier. If the posts are created and abolished like this, it only gives the impression of nepotism and favouritism prevailing at the highest level.

The only other point which I wanted to refer was the one which had been mentioned by my friend regarding the purchase and manufacture of a new automatic cross bar telephone exchange. I am not concerned with the political aspect of it and I have no information whether the company to which the contract has been given is desirable and as to how it has functioned. But the facts have been given to us—of course, from interested quarters—and I do not care from where the facts come. If they are facts, then certainly this House has got to take a very serious note of them. The facts as given to us are that the very vital information regarding this contract was suppressed and, I understand, the view of the Technical Member of the Board who had given a particular assessment was suppressed. The hon. Minister told me the other day that they had consulted the technical people and their views were taken into consideration. And then he mentioned the name of Mr. Vasudevan. I do not know who Mr. Vasudevan is, what his rank and position is and all that. But it is a definite information. I lay a very serious charge that facts were suppressed and if what I am informed is correct then this contract would result in a serious loss to the Government apart from the political aspect of it.

About the supply part, I understand there were first five competitors. When they recalled the tenders, the number dropped down to three and they recalled the tenders again because there were no comparative basis.

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This is the unfortunate way in which it functions. Then, there were extensions of time for the decision of the tender, once, twice, thrice and finally when it was decided it was decided in a clumsy manner, in a slipshod manner and in a whole-and-corner fashion. So many objections have been raised. I will now give certain facts. What I am told is, the prices for supply of equipment today are: L.M.E.—Rs. 3.11 crores; N.E.C.—Rs. 2.90 crores and B.T.M.—Rs. 3.30 crores. This is how it has been worked out. Now, the economics of cost of production and foreign exchange component required would be like this: L.M.E.—Rs. 269 crores—this is the total manufacturing cost; N.E.C. Rs. 314 crores and B.T.M.—Rs. 329 crores. Here also we are losing. If the total production goes upto 2 lakh lines, this would be the position: L.M.E.—Rs. 59.20 crores; N.E.C.—Rs. 62.80 crores and B.T.M.—Rs. 65.80 crores. I do not know how far these facts are correct. But it appears to me that this is a case which should immediately go to the Vigilance Commissioner who has been appointed by Mr. Nanda. It is such cases which create a very wrong climate in our country. The questions are being raised and they are answered in a half-hearted manner. We must have full facts and the hon. Minister would do well to let this case be examined independently and the House be assured that there were no facts which were suppressed, that the advice of the Technical Member was not ignored and that this is not against the interests of the country.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya (Rai-ganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the good things that this Department has done is the issuing of commemorative stamps in relation to the political, social and cultural history of India. I make a suggestion to the hon. Minister that on the 25th of May next fall, the anniversary of Ras Bihari Bose. That hero of revolutionary age is particularly associated with Delhi. The hon. Minister would do well to issue a commemorative stamp for Ras Bihari

[Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya]

Bose on the 25th May. If he can accede to my request I shall be happy. I may simply point it out to him that as a matter of public importance, it would be very gracious and at the same time a very pleasant act for the public also. Of course, if he had the power to do so. I would have suggested to him to rename one of the roads either in New Delhi or in Old Delhi in the name of Ras Bihari Bose. But I know that he has not got that authority. So, I do not press upon him for that. The other concerned Ministry might take up that suggestion of mine.

The next suggestion that I wish to place before him is for a direct telephone link or a direct telephone line between Calcutta and north Bengal. This northern area of West Bengal State is deprived of in many ways and one of the grievances of that area is that there is no direct telephone connection with Calcutta. All telephone lines have to pass through Kathiar in Bihar. The result is that when I call for a connection to Balughat or Raiganj headquarters of West Dinajpur district, I have to wait for 2 hours or 36 hours. Then, the ring comes saying, the lines in Kathiar are all engaged, and so I cannot get a connection. I may cite one case for the information of the hon. Minister. On one occasion there was very urgent necessity for having a direct telephone connection with the S.D.O. of Islampur, one of the sub-divisions of the district. Not being able to get myself a connection, I ran to the Secretariat and met the Chief Minister and I requested him to secure the connection for me or himself and talk with the S.D.O. there. The Chief Minister himself failed to get a connection. He first tried to have the connection through Kathiar but that failed and then he tried to have the connection through Siliguri but that also failed. The connection could not be had. I wonder how the administration of an area can be run when the capital of the State has no direct telephone connection with the area itself. The S.D.O. of Islampur told me that he

himself had been trying for long to get the connection. Even the S.D.O. has got no telephone connection. The only telephone connection that he has got is a telephone in the local post office and if anyone has got to contact the S.D.O., one has to telephone to the post office and the post office people would send a messenger to S.D.O.'s quarter and then he would come to the post office and then only even the Chief Minister of the State can have a talk with the S.D.O. of that sub-division. This is the position in the northern areas. I have been trying for this for long, of course, through correspondence with the Department itself. I want to place it before the hon. Minister now so that he may kindly take it up and see that matters are expedited without any further delay.

Yesterday, Shri Himatsingka, himself related to Calcutta in various ways, drew the attention of the House as well as of the hon. Minister to the fact that the rates for telephone calls for Calcutta were higher than those of Delhi and Bombay. When the late Dr. P. Subbarayan made these changes we drew his attention to this that Calcutta was being treated in this rather unjust way and should not be put under a difficulty like that. But that discrimination has not been removed till now. It should be tackled immediately.

There was another suggestion made by Shri Hamatsingka in regard to the uniform of the postal workers, the peons and the postmen. One of the reasons why the postal workers do not appear in uniform nowadays may be that the uniforms are outmoded and outdated. They were introduced during the British regime; they are more in the nature of a livery which the younger men of these days may not like to wear. Therefore, the uniform requires to be replaced.

In fact, the whole uniform of the Calcutta police had to be replaced under our new regime. The police in

Calcutta used to be known by the term 'lal pugree'. The press reporters when writing about the Calcutta police would describe them as 'lal pugree'; and cartoonists and newspapers would devote their attention only on the pugree. So, what the police chief had to do was this; he removed the pugree altogether and introduced the cap. But even after the pugree has been removed and caps have been introduced, I find that our press reporters are still using the term pugree to describe them, and cartoonists put a pugree on the head of the police constable, even though the pugree has been removed. That is how the uniform gets associated with certain undesirable ideas and is not liked by persons with a modern mind.

Mr. Speaker: Why should pugree be considered as undesirable?

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya: Because whenever the policeman came, the red turban appeared first, and whenever he entered a house, it was the red turban which entered first, and, therefore, that attracted notice, and people used to know that the police was coming.

Shri Hari Vishnu Komath (Hos- hangabad): He meant the red pugree and not the black pugree.

Mr. Speaker: Then, the hon. Member should refer only to the red pugree and not the black pugree.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya: I was not referring to all pugrees but only to the lal pugree. It was the red turban that became a matter of attraction for the press as well as for the cartoonist.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Yashpal Singh has got a red turban.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya: His is not a red turban; but it is of the red and purple mixed variety.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It is pale red.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya: And it fits in with his complexion also.

I would suggest to the hon. Minister that he may call for a meeting of the postal workers or a conference of the postal workers and have from them an idea as to what would be the uniform which would be to their liking and which can be introduced. If that is done, I believe that the uniforms difficulty would be removed in no time.

The P. & T. Department has been known for its punctiliousness all through. Even under the British regime, it was one of the departments which was the most punctilious in its work. But, now at times it fails. Of course, it is fairly punctilious, but at times it fails. On one occasion, the Registrar of the Calcutta University sent a telegram to me and sent a letter confirming the telegram. The letter came first and the telegram came the next day. I made a present of both these two to the late Dr. P. Subbarayan. What happened afterwards was that the money paid for the telegram was refunded to the Registrar of the Calcutta University. At least that much was done. But it would have been proper if the telegram came first and before the letter arrived. Instead of the money being refunded, the telegram should have been allowed to come first.

When I speak of punctiliousness, I would refer to one instance. When the 1930 Civil Disobedience Movement was going on, there was a regular campaign of oppression in parts of West Bengal, and particularly Midnapore from which my hon. friend Shri B. K. Das comes. While this campaign was going on, we got photos of what was being done there, and those photos were put in covers and sent by post to the members of the then Central Legislative Assembly as well to the newspapers in the State and outside the State. One of the papers, namely *The Modern Review* which was being edited by the late

[Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya]

Mr. Ramananda Chatterjee who was a renowned man of his time made a comment that "the Postal Department of the Government has faithfully brought to us pictures like these, because these pictures could not be mentioned in those days." What he did was that he mentioned the Postal Department first and then came the description of the pictures. So, even to that extent, the Department was acting punctiliously and knew what its duties were. I would suggest to the hon. Minister that that kind of punctiliousness should be observed and stuck to.

Mr. Speaker: Now, Shri Mohan Nayak. The hon. Member is not present here. Is there any other Member who wants to speak? I find none. So, I have to call the hon. Minister. But the hon. Minister also is not present here just now.

Shri Warrior: At least, we could have got a little more time when we were speaking.

Shri Yashpal Singh (Kairana): The time that is saved could be utilised for discussion on the Demands of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Shri Warrior: Shri Harish Chandra Mathur had cut short his speech.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I had only two points to make.

Mr. Speaker: I did not ring the bell.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: But I had given you an assurance in the beginning that I would make only two points.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya: I was just now referring to punctiliousness.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Not punctuality but punctiliousness.

Mr. Speaker: The House cannot wait in this manner. But then the Minister was told earlier that he

would be called upon to speak at 2 P.M.

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): Let us get this hour saved for the Demands for Grants of the Food and Agriculture Ministry.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, we can save it, if the hon. Minister comes in just now.

Shri Liladhar Kotoki (Nowgong): May I speak, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri Liladhar Kotoki: I am glad to get this opportunity to make a few observations on this very important subject. I had not sent in my name earlier because only a few days ago I had participated in the discussion on another subject, and today also, I am going to participate in the discussion on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Nevertheless, I would like to make a few suggestions to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs.

Some of the observations which my hon. friend Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya had made apply not only to North Bengal but to the entire north-east region. This is a matter which we have been urging off and on. I admit that some steps have already been taken to improve the situation there. Nevertheless, there is a lot more to be done.

13.00 hrs.

So far as telegraph connection between Assam and the rest of India is concerned, there is much to be desired. As regards telephone connection, it is still worse. I am glad that very recently a post of Postmaster General has been created. I hope he is taking steps to improve the situation there. More particularly after the emergency, that region has assumed greater and greater importance and there must be communication established by post, telegraph and telephone by way

of direct link between the capital of the State and Calcutta and Delhi. Sometime ago we were told in the Consultative Committee that they were going to have a multi-line or microwave communication between Assam and the rest of India. I would like to know the progress made so far in this direction.

There is another suggestion I would make. Every Block Headquarter should have at least one PCO and a telegraph station. This is very urgently needed particularly in the north-eastern region in order to have quick communication. It is known to the House how that area has to face the problem of maintenance of internal security and has to cope with external danger from all sides of the border, both north and east. Unless we have this means of communication, it will be very difficult, when an emergency arises, to reach certain pockets where security force, or the police could go for rescue of the people who may be in danger. Some such thing happened very recently in the State. Therefore, I humbly urge the Ministry to give very careful thought to this suggestion that block headquarters must have at least one PCO and a telegraph station.

Since I have a little more time, I will refer to one more matter.

Mr. Speaker: Simply for that reason, he may not continue.

Shri Liladhar Kotoki: I will sit down as soon as the Minister comes.

Mr. Speaker: I have got another Member to accommodate.

Shri Liladhar Kotoki: I will finish in a minute.

Shri Shinkre (Marmagoa) rose—

Mr. Speaker: He is late.

Shri Liladhar Kotoki: I know there are various areas not only in the State

of Assam, to which I belong, but in hilly areas where even postal communication, much less telephonic communication, has still to be extended. The reasons I have advanced in the case of Assam apply to the entire north-eastern region, more particularly the hilly areas. I would urge the Ministry to give careful thought to this not only from the point of view of providing communications but also from the point of view of defence, border security and also internal security in those areas.

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): Although the postal rates—stamp, postcard, telephone and telegram—have increased, the service is not only not maintained but it has to a great extent deteriorated.

As regards telegram service, I was just hearing what **Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya** had to say, that the telegram which was sent to him by the Registrar of Calcutta University arrived a day later than the letter confirming the telegram. There are cases where telegrams have not reached their destination even in seven days.

I understand that today there is a machine called Telex utilised by commercial firms by which a message can be delivered simultaneously and reply received. This is used by commercial houses in big cities like Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. There is no loss of time in this process. I do not know why the same machine is not utilised by the P. and T. department by which a telegram received in the CTO can be passed on to the cities concerned without any loss of time, without waiting for the line to be cleared. In this way, we will be able to do away with the congestion as a result of which telegrams are not received in time. In fact, there should be a notification that ordinary telegrams would not be received, because they are delayed much more than ordinary letters. A telegram sent today from here at 10 O'clock will not

[Shri Prabhat Kar]

reach Calcutta even tomorrow afternoon; it may reach its destination day after tomorrow. That being so, it is no use confusing the public by saying that the telegram has been sent. It is better to say that it will be sent **only as ordinary mail**. So the extra moneys should not be taken from the ignorant public, that is accepting an ordinary telegram which is never sent through the telegraph but is sent as an ordinary letter. This practice should be stopped. I think it should be stated that only telegrams bearing the mark 'Express' would be accepted. Also the Telex machine should be used.

Coming to difficulties in regard to post offices in rural areas, often it is found that M.O. forms are in short supply. So also there is shortage of other forms. When the post offices are maintained by Government, I do not know why this should be the case. Is it that the quota is not being given to the post offices sufficiently in advance in accordance with their requirements? Or is no assessment made and supplies made according to their requirements to the regional headquarters or State Headquarters? Anyway, this generally happens in the rural areas, where already because of the distance of post offices, people have to go to a long way to get these things. If after this they do not get what they want and are told to come the next day or two days it is a suffering for the public. This should be looked into and it must be ensured that forms are not in short supply.

Some of the post offices are in a very bad condition. I can give the instance of the post office at Ranaghat, which I have visited. During the rainy season, the ground floor is under water, and I do not know how they can maintain even their stocks. Water comes into the room. In spite of repeated requests, nothing has been

done. The same condition prevails in various other post offices. Considering the importance of post offices in communications, if they are kept in such a wretched condition, I do not know how the people can work. I have seen them, during the rainy season, sitting under the roof with an umbrella overhead. I do not know whether the hon. Minister is aware of these things. He should kindly look into the matter. At least it does not look well. I can understand their having an umbrella if they are under a tree, but sitting under a roof, with an umbrella overhead.....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Double protection, double shelter!

Shri Prabhat Kar: So, I would like this to be taken into consideration. As I have said, the Post and Telegraph Department should utilise the Telex machine which is used by commercial firms, so that telegrams are sent in time. It is no good saying that you will refund the money. A telegram is sent for an urgent purpose, and that purpose is not served if you refund the money after seven days saying that you are sorry. I would request the hon. Minister to look into it.

While the RMS headquarters is in Gaya, the main train starts from Howrah station, and because of this delays occur in letters reaching their destination. I do not know how it has happened. This should be looked into.

Shri Shinkre: Now that there is extra time, I would like to be given a chance. I will take only five minutes.

Mr. Speaker: We are six hours behind schedule.

Shri Shinkre: Anyway, not more than five minutes.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: He is a new Member from Goa. He may be given a chance.

Mr. Speaker: All right.

Shri Shinkre: I thank you for giving me this unexpected chance to say a few words.

I do not know if the Department of Posts and Telegraphs has become somewhat complacent because of too much praise being showered on them. It is true that they have made some progress, but I would like to bring to their notice that in most of the countries in Europe, the system adopted at present is same-day delivery service, no matter how big the country. A letter posted anywhere in the country must be delivered within 24 hours, no matter what the distance. The hon. Minister might contend that this is a huge or vast country and such a system cannot be adopted here, but I would like to point out to him that the United States is equally vast and big, where also this 24-hour or same-day delivery service is adopted and has been working for so many years now.

If this postal service is given a fresh push by the Ministry, I think that the pressure on the telegraph lines will be considerably reduced, and one will not be all the time under a dilemma, sending a telegram and letter at the same time, and hoping that at least one of them might reach the destination before the appointed time. So, I would like the Ministry to set before themselves the task of considering the postal service in this perspective and they must adopt a certain time-limit within which every letter must be delivered within the country. If the distances are too big, they can set themselves a mileage; a letter, let us say, up to 600 miles, must be delivered within 24 hours, and beyond that within 48 hours. That should be the maximum time they should allow themselves, because, now that there is a consider-

able network of air services in the country, they can easily introduce at least a two-day delivery service within the country.

The commission charged on money orders is at the uniform rate of Rs. 1.50 per Rs. 100. I think it should be insignificant or just a token charge. After all, from one department to the other the money is being transferred only on paper. After some time, they may have to make some adjustments. There are branches of the State Bank everywhere now, something like 1,400 branches in the country. So, I see no reason why they should charge such a high commission as Rs. 1.50. It makes it definitely very costly for the poor people to send money orders, because, besides this commission, they have also to meet some other incidental expenses. I do not know what happens in other parts of the country, but in my part of the country, if an illiterate man has to send a money order, besides the commission charged by the post office, he has to pay some commission to a literate man to fill up the form and other things. So, that also should be taken into consideration. This is a vast country where illiteracy is still about 80 per cent. Hence, the commission should be insignificant, at the rate of 1/4 per cent or something like that.

Shri Balgovind Verma (Kheri): I also may be given two or three minutes.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry.

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): I am sorry I was not here when I was called.

Mr. Speaker: He is not to blame.

Shri A. K. Sen: You had said you would call me at 2 O'clock. So, I went for a short lunch.

Mr. Speaker: I looked round nobody stood up. Now it seems Members are ready.

Shri A. K. Sen: I am much obliged for the appreciation, which I have noticed from all sides of the House, of the difficult work that the P. and T. Department has to shoulder and the vastness of the operations it has to carry out from day to day.

13.18 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

We have to take into consideration the vastness of the country, the terrific pressure which our successive Plans have generated on our old and insufficient facilities of communication, and also the age of the equipment with which we have had to work all these years. Let us not forget that we inherited a system with equipments which were by no means modern. The Britishers had not taken much pains to instal the latest improvements in our system of communication. Having regard to all these deficiencies under which the department had to work. I think I shall not be claiming too much credit if I say that the P&T Department and its employees have done a wonderful job, particularly since the great burdens which they had to shoulder after the Chinese attack on our borders, when we had to instal overnight, as it were, a network of communications from Ladakh to NEFA, extending over thousands of miles of difficult terrain, for the purpose of keeping our forward posts in constant touch with their bases as also with the Government here and elsewhere.

It will be my endeavour at an appropriate moment, if I can, to disclose, without giving too much out by way of secret information, to select groups of Members of Parliament the difficult work which the P&T. Department has done ever since the emergency was declared. Let us not forget the most difficult terrain over which this work had to be carried out, the shortage of equip-

ment, shortage of supplies and everything. Notwithstanding all that, never for a moment have we received complaints that our forward posts were cut off in communications from the rest of the country.

Take a simple thing like the Field Telephone equipment. Every little unit needs it while operating the forward areas. We did not have enough of them when the emergency started and the Chinese attack came. The ITI brought out, on its own resources, and manufactured the latest type of Field Telephone Equipments in hundreds of thousands so that everywhere today it is the Field Telephone Equipment which is operating and keeping our troops going.

Similarly, there have been thousand and one improvements brought about in our factories by our research personnel and in our different workshops with the aid of which we have been able to shoulder this very great burden, and I am happy to say that we have shouldered it well. It will be my duty, as Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, to extend my thanks and my congratulations to the vast army of P&T officers and men operating all over the country in the difficult areas, and my deep sense of appreciation of the wonderful work they have done, particularly during the emergency, and I am sure, Sir, that the applause of the House in joining me and conveying our congratulations would be a source of encouragement for them and will spur them to greater effort in the cause of the country.

We must not forget that ours is not a purely commercial undertaking. We cannot pattern our activities solely on the basis of earning a profit. The necessity of service to the people and bringing the facilities of communication to the door of the common man in the most remote areas of the country is of paramount importance. It is, therefore, not possible always to judge the activities of the department like ours, as of any public

utility concern, merely on the basis of earnings in terms of pounds, shillings and pence. Many activities have to be undertaken, though they might yield losses.

For instance, the policy we have followed of extending post offices and telegraph offices in hilly areas and other backward areas, and tribal areas, even on the basis of incurring a certain minimum annual loss, is based on this consideration: that even though the establishment of the offices may yield losses, yet even if the loss is within a certain limit, we should extend these facilities to areas which have been deprived of these facilities for so long. I must say that this policy has yielded good results, and from the statistics which have been furnished to the House, the hon. Members will find that there are very few backward areas today which have not had at least one sub post office within a reasonable distance, or within a walkable distance, if I may say so. It is in our policy to see that there is a post office and telegraph office within a reasonable distance so that one may not have to walk for days to reach the nearest post office.

Shri S. S. More (Poona): Telegraph office which never delivers the telegram!

Shri A. K. Sen: It is true, but "never" is an exaggeration. There may be a telegraph office which sometimes has not delivered the telegrams. That is quite true. If the statement was modified to this extent, it would have been correct. But in its excessive form, if I may say so with respect, to the hon. Member, it is utterly incorrect. It is not always the fault of the telegraph office which is responsible for the non-delivery of telegrams. A telegram from De'hi to a remote village, say in Kerala, will have to travel two thousands

of miles of cables, overhead cables and circuits through difficult terrain and so on, and it has not been possible to lay underground cables connecting every part of the country. Our effort has been in the initial stages to connect the main cities running almost parallel to the trunk roads by coaxial underground cables, and the progress has been very great. We expect, before the Third Five Year Plan ends, to connect the major cities—Bombay, De'hi, Calcutta, and Madras—with the coaxial cables. Once that is done, a great part of the obstacle will be overcome and much of the disturbances which interrupt the regular transmission of telegrams from one end of the country to another would be eliminated. And these coaxial cables would permit hundreds of channels to be opened up not only enabling quick and certain transmission of telegrams but also open out more channels for the transmission of more telegrams. And then we will have to take up the question of connecting other remote parts with underground cables. That must necessarily require fairly long period of time. We cannot achieve it immediately. We then expect also to connect the main cities with automatic subscriber dialling so far as telephones are concerned and open up a vast network also of teleprinters and Telex connections through the aid of coaxial cables, enabling speedy communications between one part of the country and another through for press and other important bodies.

As I said, in the work of opening post offices and telegraph offices we cannot be guided solely on the consideration of earning a profit. In fact, our post offices have, for many years run, until only recently, on loss. But we hope that with the opening of this vast network of communication facilities, the overall picture from the commercial point of view also will not be dismal.

[Shri A. K. Sen]

Then, dealing with the question of installing better and improved equipment, various steps have been taken for quite some time. We were completely depending for cables and for telephone and telecommunication equipment on imports from outside when Independence came. Soon thereafter, we established the Hindustan Cables Factory at Rupnarainpur near Calcutta in collaboration with the British subsidiary of the International Telephone Corporation, whose name has come up frequently during the last few weeks ever since we decided to give a contract to the Belgian subsidiary for the new telephone factory. This British subsidiary of the International Telephone Company at Rupnarainpur afforded excellent service and the cable factory which has been set up with their collaboration and with their assistance, has done a wonderful job. We are almost on the road to self-sufficiency in the matter of cables if we are able to expand its production such as we want to or to set up a second factory for cables. But what is important is that the quality and quantity of cables produced in the Hindustan Cables Factory have satisfied everyone of our ability to produce the very best in the way of cables which is the basis of tele-communication.

Then the Bangalore Telephone Factory was set up in collaboration with the British Telephone Company. The system of British telephones is called the Strowger system and not the cross-bar system. It is now well-known that it is not an improved type of automatic telephone and the more improved and modern type is the cross-bar type. Because we need it, the establishment of a second factory to supply the vast demand which the successive plans have generated in the way of telephone connections was considered necessary. It was considered necessary to set

up a second factory also to cover up the vast backlog. You have already been told by my colleague the Deputy Minister that there are nearly 3 lakhs of unsatisfied subscribers who are in need of telephone connections. It was decided on the strength of a loan granted by the IDA that we should initially purchase some equipment straightway and also set up a factory for producing more telephonic equipment based on the modern system of cross-bar.

The Bangalore telephone factory has worked wonderfully. Not only has it produced telephones, but its production in other branches telecommunication like automatic signalling and other forms of equipment even with the aid of transistors, electrification of railways and various other things—is also increasing. Whenever hon. Members are in Bangalore, I would be very glad and obliged if they visit the telephone factory at Bangalore and see for themselves its working. It is well worth a visit to see how many new things we have been able to produce there.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Yesterday, the hon. Deputy Minister could not throw any light on the Priyadarshini. Is it being manufactured on a mass scale?

Shri A. K. Sen: We are intending to do it. In fact, in the process, we have again made further improvement.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: More and better Priyadarshinis?

Shri A. K. Sen: Yes; call it by any name.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It is called Priyadarshini; they told me so.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): He is enamoured of the name.

Shri A. K. Sen: Shri Kamath is always fond of Priyadrashinis. It is not merely in the line of telephone manufacture. As I said, I extend a cordial invitation to all the hon. Members who have not visited it yet, to make it convenient to pay a visit to the telephone factory at Bangalore and I can assure them that it will be well worth paying a visit there. It is not merely telephones that they are producing. They are producing almost everything including hearing aid for the deaf—the most modern one.

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा (कोटा) :

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय. ला मिनिस्टर साहब बोल रहे हैं और कोरम नहीं है। उनके लिए तो कोरम होना चाहिए।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The bell is being rung... Now there is quorum. He may resume his speech.

Shri A. K. Sen: We have already taken in hand, in answer to Mr. Kamath, mass production of Priyadarshini for telephones, and they should be available for everyone.

As I said, Sir, the telephone factory at Bangalore has done a wonderful job and whoever has come from outside has paid compliments not only to the tidiness with which the operations are conducted, but also to the efficiency and quality which our scientists, workers and officers have been able to achieve in that factory.

When it was decided to utilise the IDA loan for the purpose of setting up a second telephone factory and also for the purchase of some equipment outright for our internal use, we decided to go in for the crossbar system. Global tenders were invited. Five companies tendered, out of which two were hardly worth any consideration. The three remaining tenders were from Ericsons of Sweden, the Bell Telephone Company, the Belgian subsidiary of the International Telephone

Corporation, whose English subsidiary had set up the Hindustan Cables Factory at Rupnarainpur, and the Nippon Electric Corporation of Japan.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf (Jammu and Kashmir):—Nothing about electronic device?

Shri A. K. Sen: The ITI is producing many electronic equipment, but the main electronic factory is the Bharat Electronics which is under the Defence Ministry, which is also in Bangalore. They are also producing good things. Many of the electronic things produced at Bharat Electronics are used by us also in the Bangalore Telephone Factory.

As I said, of these three tenders, Ericsons and Bell Telephone Company tendered for what is known as the compelled sequence multiple frequency equipment, which means end-to-end signalling, whereas the Japanese company tendered for one-end signalling, which is not the compelled sequence signalling. A technical committee was set up, when my esteemed predecessor Shri Jagjivan Ram was in charge of the Ministry, which went into the relative merits of the production of equipment of these three concerns and the unanimous opinion was, the compelled frequency system was the most desirable. But one member of the technical committee had opined that it could also be done without the compelled multiple frequency system; that means, as we are doing now. But the unanimous opinion was that the compelled frequency system was the most modern and that was done only by the two companies: Ericsons of Sweden and the Bell Telephone Company.

On the last occasion, I gave the figures of the tenders. I am going into this a little in detail because I am constrained to say that there has been a good deal, if I may say so with respect to the hon. Members who have raised this point, of misunderstanding about the way in which the matter has been processed and

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in the consideration of the relative merits of these rival tenders. I gave the figures about the tenders on the last occasion. For the supply of equipment straightway, the tenders were as follows: Rs. 3,02,00,000 for N.E.C., Rs. 3,48,00,000 for B.T.M. and Rs. 3,96,00,000 for Ericsons. But for the supply of capital equipment and know-how for the setting up of the factory, which was part of the integrated project.....

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Jalore): Are these straight facts or they have been worked out according to certain processes?

Shri A. K. Sen: They must be worked out because each tender resolves itself into several sub-heads.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: It is here that in the figures there is difference.

Shri A. K. Sen: There is no difference excepting in the figures of those who have come and approached the various hon. Members with wrong figures. There is no difference. I am very sure about that. I have gone into it myself.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: How have these figures been arrived at?

Shri A. K. Sen: By simple addition. A tender resolves itself into various heads as any hon. Member knows. When this charge was brought to me that in the working out of these figures various things have been done, I entrusted this matter to most responsible officers to work out, and there was no difference in the working out of these figures, not once but several times after repeated representations came to me (*Interruptions*): As soon as I took over charge, I remember, within a few days, various Members of Parliament came and saw me. People outside Parliament also came and saw me, including some solicitors,

with various figures and so on. All the papers and representations I sent to the then Secretary of the Ministry of Communications, an officer about whose ability and integrity I have the highest respect—Mr. Phillip—and who is now the Chairman of the I.T.I. I gave each scrap of paper that I received from hon. Members who saw me in connection with this and also from other men who saw me in connection with this either preferring one company's standard or another. I collected each scrap of paper. I was not competent to deal with it myself because I am not a technical man myself. Therefore, I gave it first to Mr. Phillip and then to another Member who is now in charge of telecommunication. Before that he was the Managing Director of the Telephone Industries, Bangalore and he knows almost everything there is to know with regard to telephones and telecommunication. I also gave it to the present Secretary who was then the Director-General. All of them worked out the figures and satisfied me by their separate reports that there was no attempt at fudging these figures. That was the first charge, as Shri Mathur had told me, that was brought to me, that the figures have not been worked out correctly. They have to be worked out according to certain calculations. I found later on—even the Deputy Minister pointed it out to me—that there were several persons who wanted to say something. I then called a conference consisting of all the members of the P & T who were connected with this and we went into these figures again. We found that these figures were for the supply of equipment and there the tender of the Japanese firm was the lowest—not for the compelled multiple frequency signalling equipment but for the equipment of their own system—and the tender of B.T.M. was the second. The tender of Ericsons was the highest. With regard to the supply of capital equipment and know-how,

B.T.M. was the lowest with Rs. 115 lakhs, N.E.C. was the second with Rs. 135 lakhs and Ericsons was the highest with Rs. 162 lakhs.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I ask one clarification from the hon. Minister?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is not yielding.

Shri A. K. Sen: Let me have my say and then I will certainly answer all that Shri Banerjee wants to know.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want some clarification on this point. Is it not a fact that out of the four officers who were connected with this, three were technical officers and two of them have opposed this deal?

Shri A. K. Sen: I will deal with everything. I was coming to it, if the hon. Member had borne with me a little longer I would have told him. As I said, these were the separate figures. The combined figure for the setting up of the factory and the supply of the equipment worked out to Rs. 446 lakhs in the case of NEC. Rs. 464 lakhs for Bell Telephone Company and Rs. 579 lakhs for Ericsons. After these were worked out, the next consideration was, from the technical point of view which one was the most preferable, because we are going in for the second factory which will set the pattern also for the old factory. As soon as cross-bar is produced from the new factory, we intend to go over for cross-bar production from the old factory also, because the entire country has to be geared to one system and the more efficient system. Therefore, it was most important to decide which system was the most preferable. It was, as I said, unanimously decided that the compelled multiple frequency signalling system was the most efficient system. The opinion was that the Japanese system though workable was not

certainly as good as the compelled multiple frequency signalling system. This compelled multiple frequency signalling equipment was manufactured only by Ericsons and the Bell Telephone Company. Ericsons' figures were very excessive. Apart from the figures, their equity participation and the foreign exchange availability was very difficult. In fact, so far as the offer from Bell Telephone Company was concerned, the entire amount of foreign exchange necessary could be drawn upon completely—hundred per cent—on the basis of the Belgian credit which lay unutilised.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The Swedish company has far greater experience.

Shri A. K. Sen: They have been longer in the field of manufacture. That is quite true. That is one fact which weighed with me very much when I examined it myself. After I came, in the first conference that we called I pressed it very strongly, that this was what the Swedish company's representatives who saw me pressed upon me, that their price was higher because they were much longer in the field and theirs was a much better equipment. That was their claim. So in the very first conference that I called I impressed upon our technical experts this fact and asked them to consider again the relevant merits of the two and find out whether the extra cost involved or the extra disadvantage involved in the matter of foreign exchange and other things were well compensated by the overwhelming superiority in quality which the Swedish company were claiming.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Why did you decide otherwise? Why did you decide against the Swedish company?

Shri A. K. Sen: As I said, on examination we found that the

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quality was not at all so overwhelmingly superior. That was the technical appraisal. There again, I can tell you, there was no divergence of opinion, because there was no expression of opinion by any expert that the Belgian production was inferior in quality. What was stated by one member was—I do not want to name the member because it is not proper—that the Ericsons were in the field much longer and they had a longer reputation in Europe in the sense that they were the original inventors of the cross-bar system. I can tell you that if the foreign exchange availability and other facilities which are so vital in our accepting a contract, because we have to work the IDA loan and there are various other considerations, were equal or a little less I might have been tempted even to think otherwise. But when I talked to the representatives of Ericsons they could not offer anything by way of relaxation of the rigid things that they had laid down for the purpose of availability of foreign exchange and other things. I referred them back, again, to the Secretary of the Ministry to find out how much they could relax in case of foreign exchange. I am afraid, Sir, that in the balance we found that the availability of foreign exchange and other facilities were so much more attractive with the BTM tender that it was chosen in preference to others. Since a question was raised about the Japanese company which promised to make yen credit available. I may say that the thing that weighed with our experts against the Japanese proposal was—I do not wish to say anything on the merits of their offer, because it is not fair to evaluate the merits of each case in the international market; perhaps, it has repercussion on each individual tender that may come later on—that they considered the compelled frequency system of BTM to be a much better one. In the

balance, therefore, it was decided to accept the tender of BTM.

The Secretary, Shri Phillip, within a few days after I assumed charge reported every fact and I owe it to him to say that he did not attempt to suppress any single fact from me. He mentioned in his very long note about the points that I received from various sources point-wise. Soon after that, he went away as the Chairman of ITI. Before taking a decision in the department itself, we consulted again the Managing Director of the Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore, who is a very experienced man and, as we all know, a senior engineer and also the last Managing Director, both of them felt that it would be easier for the ITI to manufacture the Belgian equipment rather than the Japanese equipment, which was different from the equipment which they were already producing in Bangalore and that the switch over to the cross-bar on the basis of the Belgian equipment would be easier. I am not saying anything which is disparaging to the Japanese or anything of that sort, nor would it be proper, particularly when they are not present here. It would not be good to their reputation outside India to say anything against them. But, from our point of view, it was definitely the opinion of both the last Managing Director as well as the present Managing Director that it would be much easier for us to manufacture the Belgian equipment rather than the Japanese equipment. The Swedish was out of the question because of the difficulty of foreign exchange availability, equity participation and various other considerations, which weighed heavily with the Finance Ministry. As I said, from the foreign exchange and other points of view, only the Japanese offer became comparable to that of the Bell

Telephones. Therefore, the question was which one to choose between the two. The two things which weighed with the Ministry and the technical experts in making this choice of the Belgian equipment in preference to the Japanese one was that the technical experts preferred the completed frequency system which they could manufacture and, secondly, the opinions of the two Managing Directors, the last one and the present one, that it would be easier to manufacture the Belgian equipment in Bangalore than the Japanese.

On this, again, I called a conference because in the mean time other facts were brought to my notice, namely, certain cuttings from Tunisian newspapers in French.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: We have got them.

Shri A. K. Sen: I have also got them. I placed them before the Cabinet when they were deciding this question. I sent these to the Secretary and to other officers dealing with it, asking for a detailed report on the truth or otherwise of these allegations. Well, I could read French myself but, nevertheless, I took the trouble of having the French press cuttings—they were photostat copies—translated into English for the benefit of others. Well, I do not want to say in what way we secure our information on the authenticity of this—we have our own means of securing our information—but when the copies were sent to me I asked for a full report on that, because if the allegations that were made, not in the newspaper cuttings but in the anonymous complaints that were forwarded to us, were true it would be certainly a very important factor in not proceeding with the contract with the company. The allegations, anonymous as they were, apart from the newspaper cuttings were that this French subsidiary which engaged in operating

a telephone system in Tunisia had engaged in espionage activity on behalf of France to sabotage the Tunisian efforts; that the Tunisian Government had expelled many of their officers and terminated the contract of service of many others or something like that. The papers said—the photostat copies of the papers—that some of the French employees engaged by the telephone corporation which was French-run, and which was using the equipment supplied by the French subsidiary of the International Telephone Corporation—they were not running a telephone system; they had supplied the equipments which were run by a French Company—those French employees who were operating the telephone system in Tunisia were found guilty of tapping certain secret transmissions of the Tunisian Government.

Shri S. M. Mukerjee: That is much more serious.

Shri A. K. Sen: Of course, it is serious.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: They will engage spies also.

Shri A. K. Sen: That is a different matter. The French employees of the Corporation running the telephones in Tunisia, some of them, were arrested on charges of espionage by tapping telephones, and the telephone equipments supplied to this Corporation were by the French subsidiary of the International Telephone Corporation; they were not running the telephones there; they were only supplying the equipments. And any telephone equipment can be tapped by anyone. Even the Bangalore-manufactured equipment can be tapped by anyone. Any person can tap the cable and that has nothing to do with the supply of the equipment. Our report was quite

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firm that this company or any of its employees was never accused of any espionage activities and that in certain claims of compensation of this company against the Tunisian Government this specific issue was raised, and when this issue was taken to the Arbitration Tribunal it specifically negated any suggestion that any of the employees of this company was ever engaged in espionage activities.

In any event, if the French subsidiary was suspect their own subsidiary, British subsidiary, had set up a cable factory at Rupnarayanpur, and we know how they have worked. Here it is certainly our duty to say that their work in connection with the Rupnarayanpur factory has been extremely satisfactory, that they have done a very good job and they have helped us to make very good progress in the way of cable manufacture of all varieties in this country.

So, I can assure my hon. friend, Shri Mathur, that all these facts were placed before the Cabinet when they took a firm decision. More than that, having regard to the various representations that we have been receiving—myself, the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister—they have been examined on more than one occasion by top officers of the External Affairs Ministry, Finance Ministry and the P&T Department, including the Secretaries concerned. **Then, they were examined personally by me on all the materials which were there, by the Finance Minister and by the officials of the External Affairs Ministry and we found that this suspicion that their engagement may open up the road to sabotage or espionage was unfounded and there was no reason for any apprehension, having regard to their record at Rupnarayanpur and particularly having regard to the findings of the tribunal of the Tunisian Government**

that none of these officers of the company was connected with espionage.

14.00 hrs.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: They have no experience, according to our information.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It is only 2 o' clock. He has enough time.

Shri A. K. Sen: Who has more experience.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: They have no experience.

Shri A. K. Sen: That is not a fact. Records show that they have set up cross-bar telephone exchanges almost all over the world.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: They have made only 3,000-line exchanges and not more than that.

Shri A. K. Sen: That is not true. If Shri Banerjee will verify, he will find that he has been given one-sided information on this matter. It is not true. I have seen the number of countries in which their equipments have been functioning and the certificates of those countries saying that those equipments are functioning very well. Then, our own experts are there. We have reached a stage when we do not have to depend on experts of other countries. Our experts know which equipment is the best. They can test it for themselves. Speaking for myself, I would say that I would rather go on the reports of our experts than of the foreign experts.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Only one expert, as I said, that is, Shri Vasudevan.

Shri A. K. Sen: That is not true. I have said that two managing directors of the ITI themselves have said

that it was easier for them to manufacture this equipment than the Japanese equipment.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Barrackpore): There is some hanky-panky. That is quite clear.

Shri A. K. Sen: You can make hanky-panky of anything; but I can tell you that we have examined it and re-examined it. No other matter has been examined so many times by so many top men, but for the fact that naturally when responsible Members of Parliament forward facts to us, it is our duty to examine things. The hon. Prime Minister himself had gone into it and I can assure you and, through you, the whole House that the matter received the utmost and the most anxious consideration of Government.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: But you will freely admit that but for the foreign exchange difficulty the Swedish company would have been the best.

Shri A. K. Sen: As I said, personally speaking, I would have been inclined to think seriously about other alternatives because of the reputation of the Swedes in this field.

Shri S. S. More: Do not labour the point.

Shri A. K. Sen: I am sorry, I took a little longer than I wanted to on this matter, but since several hon. Members had touched on this point, I thought it desirable to deal with this.

I only want to deal with a few broad items because individual items have more or less been dealt with by my hon. colleague, the Deputy Minister. It is admitted by us that our buildings programme has been rather slow ever since independence, due to shortage of funds and the very severe backlog we had to cover. There was hardly any post office the building of which was owned by the Government. Most of the post

offices were in rented buildings all over the country. It will be our endeavour hereafter to see that as many of our post offices are housed in our own buildings as possible and that our staff is housed properly in quarters which are decent enough for their standard of life. It will be our duty to see that we build our staff quarters as quickly as possible. More than that it will be my personal endeavour also to see that our employees wherever they are formed into housing co-operatives so that they can get land at concessional rates and build houses with the assistance of the Department. It has been the cardinal principle of any welfare state anywhere in the world to see that a common man can own a house for himself by finance which can be provided only by the State or by the public authorities. Today it is within the reach of a common workman in England to build a house for himself with the assistance that he gets by mortgaging his property and being able to repay the mortgage on easy weekly instalments. The same thing is there in West Germany and in other advanced countries where private ownership of houses is recognised. It will be my endeavour to see that these co-operative housing schemes for the benefit of our employees receive the utmost consideration from our Department and I will seek the help of hon. Members so that in their individual and collective approach to the Finance Ministry they plead our case also in this field. Let us not forget that in any matter that we want to do the last word is that of the Finance Ministry because they have to foot the bill. They have a difficult duty, no doubt, to perform; but, nevertheless, it has the last word.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: If the Cabinet as a whole agrees, the Finance Ministry cannot easily come in the way.

Shri A. K. Sen: Does the Cabinet ever agree without the Finance Ministry's clearance?

[Shri A. K. Sen]

If there are any other individual points that hon. Members would like me to deal with, I will be obliged to do so.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What about the officer who wrote letters...

Shri A. K. Sen: He has already been reverted. Orders for his reversion had been given before the matter was raised.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I raised certain points about the P. & T. Board itself.

Shri A. K. Sen: I will come to that last if he does not mind, that is, after answering individual queries, if any.

Shri S. S. More: Are you devising any scheme whereby you refund the money if a telegram is delivered by ordinary post?

Shri A. K. Sen: As a lawyer Shri More knows that he is entitled to a refund.

Shri S. S. More: Why should I resort to my status as a lawyer? Why not the Department do it on their own?

Shri A. K. Sen: I think, they should if telegrams are not delivered.

Shri S. S. More: They are delivered as letters.

Shri A. K. Sen: There, of course, no refund. Because of conditions well beyond us—supposing, there has been a break-down, due to either theft of wire or anything else....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: In Calcutta it is so very often.

Shri A. K. Sen: On this line it is worse. Theft of copper wire is the worst on this line. If I may tell the hon. Member, we are trying to devise a method by which instead of cop-

per wire, we will use copper-weld wire. Of course, since we have underground cables this mischief will be tackled to a large extent; but even then we have found that even when we lay underground cables, they are ripped open and miles of copper wire is stolen. We are trying to devise a system by which instead of copper wire, we will use copper-weld wire which will not have a very large market outside. Then only we will be able to tackle this problem successfully.

The point raised by Shri Mathur is of very great importance. About the P. & T. Board he has said that he has received information that the P. & T. Board is a divided house and that there are all sorts of machinations going on inside the working of the Board.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Intrigue, he said.

Shri A. K. Sen: I do not want to use a very strong expression. Machination is less strong than intrigue.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: It is acceptable to me.

Shri A. K. Sen: Intrigue is against someone; machination need not be against someone.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (Amravati): It is impersonal.

Shri A. K. Sen: If there are any concrete instances, I will be obliged if Shri Mathur secretly gives me that and talks to me because it is rather difficult to discuss this in the open House.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Therefore I did not name anybody.

Shri A. K. Sen: As I said, this thing can only be discussed privately and I shall be very obliged if Shri Mathur could make it convenient any time to come to me and give the details of the information which he

has because if it is so it will certainly be a most undesirable state of affairs. I shall certainly see that such things are not allowed inside the Board and, I have no doubt, not only in the Board but in any department of Government.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: You could at least mention about the creation of posts and abolition of posts and about the premature retirement of people.

Shri A. K. Sen: I am coming to that. About the intrigue and so on I do not want to say anything more.

He has mentioned about a senior member of the Board retiring. I have the highest respect for him—I do not want to mention him. In fact, I myself had several talks with him. Unfortunately, I think, due to various domestic reasons he has taken private employment which, if he did not take up now, may not be open to him on retirement.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Was he permitted?

Shri A. K. Sen: That is why we have permitted him. We do not want to stand in his way of getting fruitful employment. If it conflicted with any of his duties in the past, we might have; but we have readily allowed him. He spoke to me personally. I do not want to say all those things, but I allowed him to join the private employment because if we had not allowed him, possibly he would not have got it afterwards.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Domestic reasons or personal reasons?

Shri A. K. Sen: Call it domestic reasons or personal reasons, he found it necessary to accept this job which would not be open to him when he retired in the normal course.

Shri Sinhasan Singh (Gorakhpur): The general rule is that nobody will be allowed to take up employment after retirement for two years.

Shri A. K. Sen: Except with permission. Within those two years we can allow, if we find that there is nothing suspicious about his accepting the employment or that the employment is not offered to him in lieu of some consideration received from him as an officer. We examine that.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: It is very bad.

Shri A. K. Sen: Why should a useful engineer not be allowed to accept it?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: During the emergency even the applications of employes are not forwarded from one department to another.

Shri A. K. Sen: That is normally; but he convinced me to grant him this permission.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: There is more than what meets the eye.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya: I shall make only one submission to the hon. Minister. If the Government finds that the man is useful, why should not the Government retain him?

Shri A. K. Sen: I wanted to retain him. But I do not want to retain him contrary to his wishes. Anyhow, I do not want to discuss these things.

Then, the next question is about one Member's post being abolished. When the emergency came, when our supply position became so very difficult and none of our projects could be proceeded with because of a sudden pressure on supply for the purpose of defence over the far flung area and our supply position was limited, it became a very urgent problem. After meeting the defence requirements, the supply of necessary things, cables, screws and other things, was in a difficult position. Having regard to the sudden spurt of demand by our defence forces, it was found necessary at the time of my predecessor that we must have a whole-time Supply Member in the P&T Department to deal

[Shri A. K. Sen]

with this problem because the Member dealing with either development or tele-communication could not deal with that sudden increase in the demand for supply.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: It was created for a short time?

Shri A. K. Sen: Yes. The most experienced man was brought from Bangalore. He was the Managing Director of the I. T. I., Bangalore. He was brought from there so that he knew everything of tele-communication and he was put in-charge of supply. He worked so hard and he did such a wonderful job that I am sorry to say that the gentleman has now fallen ill after severe strain for over 7 to 8 months. He has been touring almost every nook and corner of this country. He has done a wonderful job and the supply is in a very happy position. Having overcome that difficult position, when this gentleman retired, we thought then of not continuing the post of a Member for Supply but again of combining the post for tele-communication and supplies because the position had improved by 7 to 8 months of ceaseless efforts of this gentleman and I must say that this gentleman has done a very wonderful job in the matter of covering up the vast backlog in our supply position. But if it again becomes necessary at a future point of time to have a separate Member for Supply, we shall certainly do it. It will depend on what the circumstances are with regard to the supply position. If possibly—God forbid—other emergencies arise and our frontiers again become difficult and troubled, we might have a separate Member solely in-charge of Supply. Maybe, in future we may have a separate Member for border communications. We can never tell what will happen in future. It will

be our effort not to increase the number of Members if it can be avoided, if normalcy returns.

Sir, these are my submissions and I am very obliged to the hon. Members for the suggestions that they have given.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Is it a fact that the hon. Minister has received representations from various organisations to have a commemorative stamp in the memory of Ras Bihari Bose?

Shri A. K. Sen: Not one. I have made enquiries during the day and I find that no representation has been given.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: But here is a request.

Shri A. K. Sen: You may please write to me. But our hands are full this year. It may be considered for the future.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I read in the papers, a couple of days ago, that decisions have been taken in regard to the commemorative stamps to be issued in honour of Mahayogi Aurobindo and also William Shakespeare. Is that a fact?

Shri A. K. Sen: Yes; that is so. About the issuing of a commemorative stamp in honour of William Shakespeare, it is at the suggestion of the hon. Member himself. I took it up after he made a suggestion and I have processed it.

Shri Ranga: Are the Government considering the request that was made to them by me and Mrs. Renu Chakravartty and some other friends also that similar stamps should be

issued to commemorate the services of Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar and Veerasalingam.

Shri A. K. Sen: We have taken up the issuing of commemorative stamp in honour of Raja Ram Mohan Roy. I think we have got the scheme to issue a commemorative stamp in the memory of Raja Ram Mohan Roy.

Shri Ranga: What about the other?

Shri A. K. Sen: We cannot issue all of them. We have got so many things in hand.

Shri Ranga: But they are being kept for consideration in future?

Shri A. K. Sen: Of course, yes. We will go on progressively issuing our stamps to commemorate our great men.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall now put all the cut motions to the vote of the House.

All the cut motions were put and negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the order paper, be granted to the President, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 98 to 102 and 145 and 146 relating to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs."

The motion was adopted.

[The motions of Demands for Grants which were adopted by the Lok Sabha are reproduced below—Ed.]

DEMAND NO. 98—DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,97,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Department of Posts and Telegraphs'."

DEMAND NO. 99—OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,45,48,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Overseas Communications Service'."

DEMAND NO. 100—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (WORKING EXPENSES)

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,13,45,76,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses)'."

DEMAND NO. 101—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DIVIDEND TO GENERAL REVENUE AND APPROPRIATIONS TO RESERVE FUNDS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,09,87,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Posts and Telegraphs Dividend to General Revenues and Appropriations to Reserve Funds'."

**DEMAND No. 102—OTHER REVENUE
EXPENDITURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,29,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Other Revenue Expenditure of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs'."

**DEMAND No. 145—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON
POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (NOT MET
FROM REVENUE)**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,53,67,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)'."

**DEMAND No. 146—OTHER CAPITAL OUT-
LAY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POSTS
AND TELEGRAPHS**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,17,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs'."

14.16 hrs.

MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We will now take up the Demands of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. There are 221 cut motions. Those Members who desire to move their cut motions may please send slips within 10 minutes.

Shri K. N. Tiwary (Bagaha): I want to make a submission. The allotment of 6 hours for the Ministry of Food and Agriculture is not enough. I request that the time may please be extended.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): You have the power to extend it by one hour.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let us proceed. I will convey this request to the Speaker.

I will first place the Demands before the House.

**DEMAND No. 36—MINISTRY OF FOOD
AND AGRICULTURE**

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 77,71,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture'."

DEMAND No. 37—AGRICULTURE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,00,11,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

**DEMAND No. 38—AGRICULTURAL RE-
SEARCH**

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,18,23,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges