

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

DEMAND No. 74—MINISTRY OF LAW

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,22,000 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 the respect of 'Ministry of Law'."

DEMAND No. 75—ELECTIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 78,74,000 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 'Elections'."

DEMAND No. 76—OTHER REVENUE EXPENDITURE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,02,000 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 Ministry of Law'."

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

DEMAND No. 98—DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"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

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"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)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"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 REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS TO RESERVE FUNDS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"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 REVENUES EXPENDITURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"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)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"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 meet from Revenue)'."

DEMAND NO. 146—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"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'."

Shri R. Barua: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head Department of Posts and Telegraphs be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for rebuilding the Jorhat Post Office. (2)]

"That the demand under the head Department of Posts and Telegraphs be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for a telephone exchange building at Jorhat. (3)]

"That the demand under the head Department of Posts and Telegraphs be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for a crash programme for constructing staff quarters. (4)]

"That the demand under the head Department of Posts and Telegraphs be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for avoiding wastage in Stores. (5)].

Shri Yashpal Singh (Kairana): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to open new Post and Telegraph Offices in rural areas. (6)]

"That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to construct quarters for employees. (7)]

"That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for increasing the facility for sending telegrams in Hindi. (8)]

"That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses) be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to instal teleprinters for transmission of material in Hindi. (9)]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: These Demands and Cut Motions are now before the House.

Dr. Ranen Sen (Calcutta East): At the outset, let me welcome the formation of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. It is a matter for gratification that the Posts and Telegraphs Department has been separated from the former Transport and Communications Ministry. It is also a matter for gratification that this Department is handling an increasing volume of work and is trying to cater to the growing needs of the people.

If we go through the report, we find certain encouraging features. For instance, new sections are being opened. This department has started making a profit. It employs a total of nearly 4 lakhs of employees. Yet, I must point out that the P. & T. Board does not enjoy the same status as the Railway Board, even though it pays the same percentage to the general revenues as the railways.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It is a new creation.

Dr. Ranen Sen: Last year, the Department paid Rs. 4 crores to the general revenues. Still, the P. & T. Board is not an autonomous body like the Railway Board. In matters of overall schemes intended to provide amenities or facilities to the staff, the Finance Ministry is the supreme authority still, and unlike in the Railway Board, everything in this regard is being determined by the Finance Ministry. It is high time that the Government of India try to improve the status of this Department and give it the same status as that of the Railway Board, because that will facilitate the better functioning of the P. & T. Department, and that will be conducive to the interest of the public as well.

While I congratulate the Department on doing some good work, and I wish that it will go on doing some more good work for the interest of the people and the country, I would like to make some criticisms and point out certain difficulties and bottle-

necks. Firstly, I want to refer to a very important question which was raised the other day by my hon. friends Shri Daji, Shri Warior and some others, regarding the proposed contract with the Bell Telephone company of Belgium. There are two aspects in this case which I would like to raise again. Of course, there were some questions put the other day and some answers were also given, but I would like to raise this issue again. After I have gone through the answers given by the hon. Minister, I still find that it is quite evident that the equipment for 48,000 telephones will cost us Rs. 50 lakhs more as compared with the quotations given by the other companies, for instance, the Japanese ones, and this amount has to be paid in foreign currency. This is another very important matter. Added to this, 30 per cent. will have to be paid by way of customs duties etc. on Government imports. So, naturally, the figure of Rs. 50 lakhs would go up to about Rs. 70 lakhs. Then, there are Government charges which include 5 per cent. interest on loan, 15 per cent. on technical maintenance etc. The result is that ultimately it would go up to nearly one crore of rupees. This is the calculation that I have made. That means that for 48,000 telephones, this country has to pay Rs. 1 crore more. It comes to nearly Rs. 40 per telephone as the recurring expenditure. It means that the public has to bear Rs. 40 more because of our Government entering into these negotiations for finalising the contract.

The second point in this regard is this. The other day the hon. Minister said that the factory would be cheaper. I would like to know what this mystery of cheapness is. Firstly, the BTM has neither guaranteed the prices of machinery nor of raw materials. Take, for example, the case of a lathe machine which would be necessary. BTM will not supply the lathe machine but the Department will have to procure it from outside. Supposing they have quoted Rs. 5000 for a

machine, since they are not supplying the machine, Government will have to procure it from outside and may have to pay Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 15,000 for that. So, it is no good saying that it will be cheaper. Ultimately, it will be costlier.

Again, the third point is this. The other day, the hon. Minister has said in the course of his replies to questions that out of the three officers, one Mr. Vasudevan, who is supposed to be an expert, has recommended this deal. Why did Government reject the opinion of the other two officers? What is the reason for that? I did not want to mention any name, but since the hon. Minister had mentioned the name of the officer here on the floor of this House the other day, I am also mentioning it; otherwise, I would not have mentioned it at all. Is it because of the fact that this officer is a near-relative of our Finance Minister? Is it due to the pressure of the Finance Minister on the department that the recommendation of this officer has been accepted and the position taken by the other two officers was not considered at all? I want a clear answer on this point.

My next point is that as was pointed out the other day, this company is a counterpart of the French company CGCT. They are all affiliated with or subsidiary to the American Company ITT. This counterpart French company took part in espionage work. It has been proved and established, and it was reported in the Cairo newspapers and it is also known to the Government of India. I do not know why such a company has been entrusted with the task of this telephone business. This is a serious thing from the economic and the political point of view. This is a completely undesirable proposal. I hope the Government of India and the hon. Minister will take adequate steps not to enter into such negotiations and such contracts.

While I have admitted certain achievements of the Department, it is my duty also to point out certain shortfalls, certain loopholes and certain lacuna. The first point in this regard is in regard to the posts and telegraphs buildings. It is common knowledge, and it is also mentioned in the report that the volume of work is increasing. But look at our post offices in cities or towns. They are in a horrible condition of overcrowding and great congestion. This is our own experience. We have got information from various parts of the country. This is the common complaint of the public. The efficiency of the service has deteriorated and the public suffers. Therefore, it is high time the P. & T. Department took cognisance of this.

Last year the then Minister in charge promised that Government was going to take certain vigorous steps in regard to staff quarters and office buildings. But during the year, we do not notice any sign of improvement in the position. I would not have raised this question if it had not affected the employees and public as well.

Shri Yashpal Singh: On a point of order, There is no quorum.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The first quorum bell to be rung today.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not a point of order.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Any question of violation of the Constitution or Rules can be brought in—as a point of order.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The bell is being rung—Now there is quorum. Yes, Dr. Sen.

Dr. Ranen Sen: I was speaking about the staff position. We have found that the people working in the post offices are overworked. When we made enquiries, we came to know certain very wonderful things. In the whole process of sanctioning of posts,

[Dr. Ranent Sen]

recruitment, training and police verification, there is a bottleneck created and as a result for months and months posts are not filled up. It is for the Minister to look into the matter and see why there is this under-staffing. This goes on to the detriment of the interests of the public as also of the employees.

Here I want to raise another point. I have not been able to understand one thing, and I hope the Minister will explain. In the report, I find stated that at the present moment, the Secretary of the Department of P. & T. is the Chairman of the P. & T. Board as well as the Director General of the P. & T. How can all the three functions be discharged by one person.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: He is very efficient perhaps.

Dr. Ranent Sen: But I want to know how he could devote sufficient time to each of these functions. Anyway, it is not possible for any one person to do these three jobs.

Now I come to the question of employees' housing. I have already referred to the promise of the then Minister last year to improve the housing conditions. Compared to the railway employees, their housing condition is very bad. Compared to other Departments of Government, the housing condition of the P. & T. department is the worst.

I want to refer to certain demands of the employees here. In page 31 of the Demands for Grants, they speak of enlargement of the P. & T. Welfare Fund. But I find the same amount of money granted since 1962-63. So how is the fund enlarged? With regard to the Labour Welfare Fund, the allotment is decreased. So I fail to understand how it can be claimed that in regard to the employees' welfare, labour welfare, any improvement has been made. If the allocations are any indication, there has been no improvement.

There is another difficulty experienced by the public. That is in regard to the postal life insurance scheme. In ordinary life insurance under the savings scheme, every year a statement of account is given to the particular person from whose salary deductions have been made for payment of premium. But in the postal life insurance scheme, no such statement is furnished to the insured. As a result, there have been cases where employees have been told on maturity of the policy, when they retire, that in a certain year 10 or 15 years ago, their premium was not paid. Thus they are not in a position to realise the sum accrued. This is a serious matter which should be looked into. The postal life insurance department should have no difficulty in furnishing to the insured an annual statement of account.

While going through the report, I found that though there is improvement in many sectors, the ITI, Bangalore, is not able to reach its target. Has there been any inquiry into this? I had recently been in Bangalore. I saw the factory. I want to know what is the reason for the shortfall. There have been enough instances given in the audit report of losses, bad contracts, extravagance etc. It is time the P. & T. department went into the matter very seriously and tightened up the whole thing.

Now I come to a very important question. Though I do not want to enter into any controversy, this is an important point and I want to raise it here and now. In regard to the propagation of Hindi—as I said, it is a dangerous field and I do not want to enter into any controversy—I am sorry to say certain things, to which I shall refer now. I regard to the propagation of Hindi, I have no quarrel—I can read, write and speak Hindi; I have learnt it. But it is stated here under 'Propagation of Hindi'. 'Printing Invitations in Hindi also'—I have no objection. 'Replying Hindi communications in Hindi'—I have no objection. But 'Issuing circulars and

orders relating to class IV employees in Hindi also'. Why so in non-Hindi areas? It may be said that Hindi is introduced in addition to English, but, a' the same time why is there no use of the regional language?

Ans. Hon. Member: Hindi also.

Dr. Ranen Sen: Do not say Hindi also: In the Calcutta Telephone House, for instance, I am glad that there is no English inscription. It is written Telephone Bhavan in Hindi, but it should be written in Bengali, also. This is my point. Do not say in Hindi also. I say it should be in Bengali, Tamil, Punjabi, Assamese, in the regional language. What is wrong in that?

Shri Radhelal Vyas (Ujjain): No English, only Hindi and the regional language.

Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi): Correct, agreed.

Dr. Ranen Sen: This is very objectionable. This is a sort of imposition that will help neither Hindi nor anybody. This is the point I want to make.

Though it is not quite relevant here, I see that in Howrah Station the departure and arrival times of trains are given in English first and then in Hindi, as if all the people in that State know either English or Hindi, as if they have no language other than Hindi. This is the work of the Government of India. I am sorry it helps no one. I am glad our friends have accepted my point.

Then I shall come hurriedly to some of the grievances of the employees. Their first grievance is about dearness allowance. This is a common grievance of all employees. The arrears should have been paid from 1st November 1961, but they are being paid from July, 1963. The Ministry should take it up and do something in this respect.

The second grievance relates to the balance payment to be made by them

under the Compulsory Deposit Scheme. This has to be paid before the 31st March. When the scheme itself is going, why make these poor employees pay it? They did not incur debts in order to pay it. Why make them incur debts and pay it before 31st March, 1964, when from 1st April the scheme itself is going? It is a wonderful thing. This is a great burden on the employees.

Thirdly, people recruited in Madhya Pradesh are part of the Maharashtra circle, as a result of which they are losing their chances of promotion. A long time ago it was agreed by the Government of India that a Madhya Pradesh Circle should be established. This is also a genuine demand of the employees, and so there should be no difficulty in establishing the circle.

People are still being victimised for their participation in the 1960 strike. This is 1964, and from a humanitarian point of view, it is high time that all these punishments are given up. Even now, promotion has not been given to some people, and some people have been reverted. After four years, it would be magnanimous on the part of Government to consider it from a human point of view and do justice to these poor employees. After all, that was a strike in which lakhs of people participated, and there should be no longer any victimisation.

The last point is about telephone booths in the Calcutta suburban railway stations, which I mentioned in one of the Consultative Committee meetings at which the hon. Minister Shri A. K. Sen was present. I made the proposal six months back, the hon. Minister said he would consider it, but I do not know what has happened. At least these telephone booths are not present. Lakhs of people come to Calcutta and go out every day, and there are no telephone booths in the suburban stations. It is high time that the P. & T. Department paid attention to this.

Shri Maniyangadan (Kottayam): I support the Demands of the P. & T. Department.

The functioning of the P. & T. Board has not been very happy. We all welcomed the formation of the Board, but due to some difficulties, which I do not know, the Board is not having full powers over the department to do all that is necessary for the development of its activities. So, I fully endorse the views expressed by the previous speaker that the Board should be on a par with the Railway Board.

I have to submit that the telephone system according to the experience of several subscribers, is functioning in a very inefficient way. If we want to book a trunk call, it is very difficult to get at the operator. Even if we book it, we have to wait for hours at times, and after several hours we hear the reply that the line is not clear or that there is some difficulty somewhere. So, while congratulating the department on the developments that have been taken place in this field, I also request them to look into the matter of efficiency.

There is a lot of delay in the delivery of letters, especially in mofussil places. If a letter is sent from Delhi to a place in the South, there is the train which takes it to its destination, but beyond that it takes another two or three days to reach the addressee. Why all this delay? This is my own experience, and I can quote instances also, but I do not want to take up the time of the House. A letter sent from here to Kottayam or some other place must be made available to the addressee at least the next day; if it is a village, it may take another day or two. So, the present arrangement for transporting postal articles is not at all happy, and I would submit that this matter may be looked into.

I have to bring to the notice of the Department the case of certain employees of former Part B States who were taken over by the P. & T. Department. I refer particularly to

some employees who were taken over from the Telephone Department in the State of Travancore-Cochin. I make special mention of some telephone operators who were taken over on 1st April 1950 as a result of integration. These officers of the Travancore telephones were in the cadre of telephone operators on 1st April 1950 and they are working as such without any break in service. But strangely enough, their service as telephone operators at a subsequent period was categorised as lineman telephone operators—a cadre which did not exist in that department. The Travancore Public Service Commission recruited them and they possessed the requisite qualifications. This action is in contravention of the direction of the Finance Ministry but some lame excuse have been given. One such excuse is that after such a long time it is not possible to correct the mistakes. But since these officers are suffering a lot on account of this discrimination, this may be looked into.

14 hrs.

Now, Sir, Kerala circle was formed about 2 or 3 years ago. It is still a minor circle. I do not know why it is kept as a minor circle. I suggest that it may be upgraded as a major unit. It is still retained as a minor unit without giving any reasons.

About the construction of buildings, I do not know whether due to emergency they have put off construction of residential quarters for officers. This was referred to by the previous speaker. I can speak from my experience; in Kerala circle there are certain regions especially in the high ranges where unless accommodation is provided, officers working there would not find any room to stay. For several years we have requested that quarters may be constructed and certain steps for the acquisition of land and other things had been taken but no steps are taken for constructing

these quarters. Similarly, with regard to buildings for housing post offices, there are certain very old and condemned buildings which are retained without either reconstruction or repairs. In this connection, I may make special mention of the head post office at Kottayam—a building constructed about a century back to suit the requirements of that time. During all these years, the number of workers have expanded so much but still they are asked to utilise that building alone. I do not know what happened to the provision included in the budget in one year, and in the papers it was reported that the officers replied in the last advisory meeting that they were awaiting orders from Delhi. I do not know why the order is being delayed so much. There are several other instances where these matters have to be taken up expeditiously. Since I referred to Kottayam, I may mention another thing also; telegraph and teleprinter office at Kottayam. It is a town from where seven daily papers come out. We have got teleprinter service at Ernakulam and Travancore but not at this place. I request the Minister to look into this also; the department has been asked to establish one in this place.

I appreciate the fact that the department has taken a lot of interest and several new exchanges and new post offices are being opened. But when we come to certain areas we find that it has been sanctioned several months back but no steps are taken to open them actually on the plea that some material is not available. The department must look into these things and the materials should be made available as expeditiously as possible.

Mention was made about the language. I am not keen that Hindi should also be there in the circulars. But since we have accepted it as the national language and the Government is trying to propagate it, it is a step in the right direction if we issue circulars in Hindi also. I have no objection to circulars being issued in

regional languages also. If, as the previous speaker said, it is only in Hindi, then of course, it will create a lot of difficulties. It should be in English and also in Hindi and possibly in regional languages also. These circulars are generally meant for the officers, but when a thing is advertised it must be necessarily in the regional language also. I have no objection; on the other hand I very much welcome the step taken by the department in issuing circulars in Hindi. I come from a State where Hindi is not the spoken language but since we have accepted this principle, I would welcome that.

Shri Solanki (Kaira): Sir, I join my voice also to the feelings expressed by the two former speakers that the Posts and Telegraphs Department be separated from the Ministry of Transport.

I would like to divide the efficiency measures into two parts: first of all, efficiency of the administration itself, work done in the post office and the work which is being carried out by the workers. This also forms an important part of the efficiency of administration. It is a matter of grave concern that although the posts and telegraphs department is giving a revenue of Rs. 1 crore and is almost as big as the railways, it is still depending upon the Ministry of Finance for its expenditure. If we want efficiency and quick measures to be taken. The Posts and Telegraphs Department must have the freedom to incur expenditure wherever required. Therefore, it is my humble suggestion that the P. & T. Department should also become an autonomous body like the Railway Ministry. It is only then that work will be carried out more efficiently.

We also observe that almost four lakhs of people are working in this department and it is also a matter for concern that the progress is not much, when the staff working in this depart-

[Shri Solanki]

ment gets all the facilities which are given to the railway workers. If we compare only the housing scheme, or the housing problem, of the Railway Ministry and the Posts and Telegraphs Department, we can see that the Posts and Telegraphs Department is lagging far behind that of the Railways. I can only quote what the Minister said last year regarding this matter of accommodation. He said:

"The condition of our buildings, both official and residential, is far from satisfactory. When I took over, I did take certain action so that we can expedite the construction of both official and residential accommodation because the experience had been that though money, maybe only a modest amount, was provided in the budget, that was not being spent. So I tried to create a separate construction division in the P. & T. Directorate. But in the meantime, the emergency came and the progress that I expected has not been achieved. I may assure the House that I am very anxious to expedite the construction of both official and residential accommodation within the amount provided to us as quickly as possible..."

Even after this assurance, nothing has been done in this direction. I believe that 5,000 quarters are to be built within the end of the third Five Year Plan, but still, it will not be enough to house the staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. Although the emergency prevailed, we can see that the Ministry of Railways has been able to do quite a lot for its staff, as was stated by the Railway Minister on the 19th February, 1963. He said:

"The Railway administrations have been maintaining the necessary tempo of improvement in various measures for the welfare of staff. It is proposed to add about 12,000 residential quarters

every year—more or less corresponding to what is being done from the commencement of the Second Plan—in order to improve housing facilities for staff."

So, the emergency measures have certainly not affected the Ministry of Railways, but the Posts and Telegraphs Department is still handicapped under the emergency measures and its staff is still howling and shouting for quarters and also for the post office buildings and other buildings for the administration in the cities.

Last time, when I spoke, I had mentioned the poor condition of the Posts and Telegraphs buildings in cities like Ahmedabad, Surat, Madras etc., and I still maintain that in a city like Ahmedabad, which is the capital of the Gujarat State, we are still badly equipped as far as the Posts and Telegraphs buildings are concerned. Especially in Maninagar, which is a big suburb of Ahmedabad, the condition is really shocking.

Another point which I want to bring to the attention of the hon. Minister is that the posts and Telegraphs staff so many times overworks itself to the tune of four to five hours. Even today, that working hour is not counted as overtime. I believe a committee was set up to look into this matter and already quite a lot of time has elapsed but no decision has been taken regarding this matter. This matter should be immediately considered, and the staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department which puts more work amounting to four to five hours should be entitled to overtime.

Then, the compulsory saving deposits have been removed, and it is a relief for the middle classes, but in regard to the lower classes of the people, the amount will have to be paid towards the compulsory deposit saving by the end of the 31st March, and it is still a serious problem for the lower income groups. They are not

able to find the amounts which are to be deposited by the end of this month. Something should be done about that. Also, the indirect taxation structure is not so relief-giving, and it is still pinching the lower income groups.

Another thing which was mentioned by my hon. friend who spoke earlier was about the strike in July last. When the strike of July, 1960 was over, the matter was referred to the authorities, and some of the people were saved from punishment. But even after a period of three and a half years, we still find that some of the victims of that strike are suffering. I request the Posts and Telegraphs Department to overlook this matter and be kind and considerate and give them the benefit by getting them back to service and forget the bitterness which was caused by the strike. If we can recall, even the Defence Ministry has done the same thing and it has brought back some of the people who went on strike, and they are working all right. The Posts and Telegraphs Department could also do the same thing.

Another thing that I want to point out is with regard to the administration. When we go to the post-offices, many times it has happened that there is a shortage of forms, money-order or telegraph or any other such forms. I think it is only the duty of the department to provide such forms wherever required in adequate numbers, and we should see that no such shortfall is caused anywhere. Sometimes, it is a matter for embarrassment also for the staff working there, to tell the customer that forms are not available, and it is really causing a lot of trouble to the people who go there for service. So, immediate attention should be given to this matter and the forms should be provided in adequate numbers wherever required.

Another thing that causes concern is with regard to the opening of new

head offices and sub-offices. A lot of sub post-offices and head post-offices are now being opened. There is a volume which is published. Maybe it is an annual. The last volume was published in 1961. It gives a list of the new post-offices which have been opened, but even today, if we go to a post-office, we find that some offices are not included in the volume. During these two years, some new sub-offices or departmental offices have been opened, but they are not included in the Directory of Information. So, the staff itself faces trouble. They are also not able to trace the whereabouts or the name of the post-office, and again trouble is caused. Of course, some pamphlets are published afterwards and are added to the volume, but they also become a volume by themselves, and then also additional work has to be done and trouble is caused. So, immediate action should be taken, and the post-offices should be notified regarding the new offices that are opened from time to time, so that wherever they are opened, immediately all the post-offices know the whereabouts and the people also can go there for transacting their business.

Regarding the stamps that are printed, I should like to say a few words. Even today, when the decimal system is in vogue, the stamp-sheets are printed in odd numbers like 17 and 19 and so on. They are not printed in even numbers or multiples like 125 or 150 and so on. We ought to change the old system, and now that we have a decimal system, the stamps should be printed in sheets of 25, 50 or 100, etc:

I would also like to know from the Minister whether the papers we use are imported or whether we have this paper in our own country. Regarding efficiency, I would suggest that an Efficiency Bureau should be created in several places, so that if there is a complaint or any shortage of forms or any such thing, they could study the problem and inform the authorities to meet the requirements.

[Shri Solanki]

Although new sub post-offices and post-offices are being opened, there is still a growing need for more post-offices and sub post-offices. The head offices which we require would be not less than 200 and at least 4000 branch-offices should be opened. Just to remind the Minister, I might point out that in 1947 for the accounting of 23,344 rural offices, we had head offices amounting to 188. In 1961, the rural offices have increased to 76,839, but the head offices functioning are only 289. It is indeed a matter of concern and as I said earlier, 200 head offices and 4,000 branch offices should be opened to meet the growing demand.

Another thing I would like to request the Minister is to open more public call offices. In many backward areas, public call offices are not available. There is one area in Andhra Pradesh called Rayalaseema where public call offices are required. Also, in my own State, in the Panch Mahals District and in the Kaira District, from where I come, we require more public call offices.

Lastly I would say a few words about the telephone industry. It is said that by the end of the third Plan, 3 lakhs more telephones would be available for our use. But still, there is a great shortage of telephones in the country. It seems that the Government concern in Bangalore is not able to meet the demands of the people and the industry, which is growing rapidly. In Gujarat State, I can feel it because so many people come to me regarding this. I have also noticed some shocking things in Delhi. When I came here, some industrialists approached me and said that if Members of Parliament would loan their telephone services, they are prepared to pay an amount of Rs. 4,000 for the use of their telephones. So, black-marketing, bribery and corruption have entered this department. This is due to the shortage. If we meet the demands, such things will not happen. When industries are

growing and when we talk of progress, a facility like a telephone is a must for business purposes or for communications. So, if the Government is not able to meet the demands, I would suggest that they should allow private concerns to manufacture telephones, wherever the demands are more. I know they are considering to open another factory somewhere, but that should be expedited and they should try to meet this growing demand for telephones. Unless we do that, the shortage of telephones is causing great concern to our industry and people at large. Something should be done about this at once.

There is another thing. When a person requires a telephone, he deposits Rs. 2,000 but on that deposit, no interest is paid. The delay is so great that the sum of Rs. 2,000 may remain with the department for 1 or 1½ years and then the service might be available. In Japan, where such deposits are paid, interest is paid on the deposits and they try to give the facility as quickly as possible. Therefore, I urge the P. & T. Department to be more efficient in their work. Now that they are a separate body by themselves, they should try to avail themselves of the finances they require; they should try to satisfy the staff they employ and also work efficiently for the benefit of the people.

Shri Jena (Bhadrak): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak and I rise to support the demands of the P. & T. Department. This department serves the largest number of people in the country. On the eve of our independence, the number of post offices was 22,116. At present, the number is 90,239. At that time one post office served on an average an area of 35 square miles. Now one post office serves an area of only 14 square miles. From this, we can judge that the number of post and telegraph offices in the country has increased a lot. But still much remains to be done. In spite of that, this Ministry deserves congratulation.

There is no doubt that the present emergency has added to the burden of their work and they are discharging the duty efficiently. Just like railways, this department has provisions to receive public complaints. They are receiving them and as far as possible they try to rectify the defects.

The number of all kinds of letters and telegrams is increasing day by day considerably. But sometimes post offices having the same name in the same district put the sorters to difficulty. Sometimes the letters are not addressed correctly and this leads to misdelivery of letters. That is why sometimes the department is put to blame. By saying so, I do not mean that there is nothing wrong in the working of this department. There is no rose without a thorn. Sometimes express letters are delivered late and telegrams reach later than we reach the place of our destination. At the same time, we must admit our own draw-backs. We should expect good work and prompt service from a man when he is well fed, nicely clad and properly housed. In my own State of Orissa, I have seen employees of the postal department coming from distant places and being put to a great difficulty in respect of housing. By saying so, I do not mean the Ministry has not done anything for providing housing to its employees. They are, of course, doing something, but not upto the demand.

I might be excused for saying that the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe employees of this department are not given a fair deal so far as my own State of Orissa is concerned. I should say that this Ministry has not done justice to that State. Orissa became a separate State in 1936, but up till now it has not got a Post Master General's office of its own. I think in the whole of our country, there will be few States which do not have their own Post Master General's office in them. We have got a large number of telephones in our State and for that, I must thank the Minister and the Ministry. But the telephone accounts office for this State is

in Calcutta. Due to that difficulty, accumulated and consolidated telephone bills are received and the subscribers have to face a great deal of difficulty for paying accumulated telephone dues. So, I would request the Minister to see that Orissa gets the telephone accounts office and the PMG's office in the State.

We have got our DPT office in Cuttack, although our State capital is Bhubaneswar. I do not mind the DPT office being at Cuttack or at Bhubaneswar, but I would certainly like to say that the present DPT office at Cuttack does not have as much space as is required to work smoothly. Sometimes the staff feel difficulty in preserving the files carefully for want of space. This question was raised last time in this hon. House and Shri Jagjivan Ram, the then Communications Minister assured me that this DPT office would be shifted from Cuttack to Bhubaneswar. But I do not know whether any progress has been made in this direction.

The question of opening RMS offices at Bhadrak and Titilagarh has been long pending, since 1960. It is always said that houses are not available there to open those offices. But I should say that houses are never available unless sincere efforts are made to get them. I understand that houses are available at both the places. I would therefore request the hon. Minister to kindly see that the RMS offices are opened at these places.

The RMS section working between Vizianagram and Raipur exclusively serves the places of three districts of Orissa, namely, Kalahandi, Koraput and Bolangir. Besides this, the railway line serving this section mostly runs in Orissa. On account of the industrial development of those areas, the activities of the Postal Department have gone up. Letters addressed in Oriya or in Bengalee are delayed much in their transmission. That is due to the fact that the employees working in this section of the RMS hardly know these two languages.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): The script is also complicated.

Shri Jena: Therefore, this section has to be transferred and placed under the control of the DPT, Orissa. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly see that this section of the RMS is transferred and placed under the charge of the DPT, Orissa.

I would make a humble suggestion to the Ministry. We have got express trains from Howrah to Madras and vice versa. If one R.M.S. section is opened in those trains. I think the general public will be much benefited as far as postal facilities are concerned.

Coming to my constituency I will say something. There is a Sub-Post Office at Bhadrak. It has more than twenty sub-post offices under it. The volume of work of that Post Office is in no way less than that of a head office. Last year this question was raised and I was assured by Shri Jagjivan Ram, the then Communications Minister, that this will be converted into a head office. I do not know how far this progress has been made, and I would request the hon. Minister to kindly get this conversion work expedited.

Sir, ours is a poor country and most of our rural people live in thatched houses. Thousands and thousands of these houses catch fire every year easily. There is, of course, provision of fire-fighting engines in the towns. But our rural people are deprived of this facility because they cannot run to that office and ask for help. So I would request the hon. Minister to kindly consider this question very sympathetically, and if possible the post offices at least near the *gram panchayat* offices, or schools, that is places which are linked up with roads, should have this telephone facility. This provision would have a vast amount of national wealth every year.

Then, there is a small thing. There is a branch post office at Sohora in my constituency..

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा (कोटा) :
उपाध्यक्ष जी, कोरम नहीं है ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The bell is being rung.—Now there is quorum. The hon. Member may continue.

Shri Jena: Sir, as I was saying, there is a branch post office at Sohora in my constituency. It receives its mail from a sub-office at Dhamnagar at a distance of only six miles. Sir, we are in the days of science when time and distance have been controlled by civilised society. But mails from this sub-office reach that branch office after two days. This matter has been brought to the notice of the postal authorities concerned. But up till now nothing has happened. I hope that at least from now onwards this unfortunate thing will not take place.

With these words I support the Demands and I thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

Shri Himatsingka: Mr. Deputy-Speaker. Sir, this Department has the credit of being an efficient department amongst all the departments of the Government. I can say from my own personal experience that in Delhi sometimes I am rung up at about 2 o'clock in the night or after twelve to receive telegrams. But in the matter of certain telegrams sent from Delhi to Calcutta or from Calcutta to Delhi I do not know why it takes a very long time. Then the purpose for which the telegrams are sent is frustrated. For instance, from here I send a telegram about my departure the next day, and the telegram reaches seven or eight hours after I have reached the place. Something must be done in that direction.

As regards telephones I do not know what is wrong. Certainly, the courtesy of the operators has very much improved, and I am glad to say that they are very courteous, both at Calcutta and at Delhi, and they always speak with the word "Please". But you do not get the call. You cannot be satisfied with the courtesy only. What happens is that the telephones are generally out of order. From Calcutta, if you want any station at any time, almost every day it is out of order. The same thing happens in

other places also. I do not know what is the reason for the telephone lines going out of order so often. Therefore, if something can be done about this, it should be done immediately. Especially Assam is a very important area, and you must have immediate connection for so many important things to be done there.

There is another thing. Even when the line is in order and working you do not get connections, even for urgent calls, for hours. If you book a call in the early morning at 5 o'clock, you don't get the connection till ten or twelve or even later. After all, there must be something done, so that calls booked in the early hours of the morning, when there is not much pressure of official work or other work, should be put through quickly. That matter should be examined as quickly as possible and something done.

I am told by another hon. Member that the charge in Calcutta per call is more than the charge at Delhi or Bombay per call. If that is correct—and I take it that it is correct—there is no reason why this difference should be maintained and in Calcutta calls should be charged more than what is charged for similar calls made at Delhi and Bombay. Therefore, I feel that these matters, small matters though they are, need looking into.

The number of post offices in the mofussils have very much increased, and that is for the good. There is a demand for more post offices, more letters are being written and it is all for the good. But in some of the post offices in the Santhal Parganas, it takes a lot of time. I do not know why from one post office to another sometimes it takes three to four days. I am told that letters which reach Godda or Pathergama in Santhal Parganas take three or four days to reach Mehgama. I think the matter needs looking into, because this department which has the credit of being so efficient should not allow anything to be done to lower the credit that it enjoys and has been enjoying so long.

The matter, therefore, needs looking into.

There is one other small matter. The postal men who deliver letters in Calcutta now do not have any kind of uniform. Previously I had no occasion to find anybody without a uniform. Now most of the postmen who go and deliver letters in Calcutta are without uniforms. I want to know whether that rule has been abrogated and that is not being enforced.

Shri R. Barua: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is good that this Ministry has now been made an independent unit and it is not dovetailed to the composite one. During the last few years, admittedly, this Ministry has made tremendous progress and advance, and it is a matter of satisfaction that we are having a speedy increase both in the number of post and telegraph offices and also other important means of communications. At the same time, we should also remember that the industrial progress of the country is directly connected with the communication system, with the post and telegraph system. Therefore, the rate of progress should not make us complacent because we have yet to make a long headway.

Again, we are faced with two important matters, namely, the aggressive China and the belligerent Pakistan. This has made our communication problem all the more important and complicated. It is good that the Ministry has decided to establish the micro wave system in the Eastern Zone in order to avoid disruption of communication in times of need as well as in normal times. My hon. friend, Shri Himatsingka has just now pointed out that it is very difficult to get telephone calls from Calcutta to Assam and that is due to constant disruption of the communication line. I am happy that this micro wave system is going to be established. From the report I am able to understand that it will be commissioned sometime towards the end of 1964. But Sir, I do

[Shri R. Barua]

not think that this micro wave system alone will solve the problem. There are other things as well which have to be looked into in this vast region which keeps the different branches of our administration—the army and the civil service—in close contact. Therefore, other necessary improvements needed in this area should be gone into.

Then, coming to the question of construction of buildings, I am very much constrained to remark that a backlog in this aspect which was there has not yet been properly met. I am talking of construction of buildings to house the post offices and also the employees. It was, I think, in the Pay Commission's Report, if I remember aright, that at that time there were two lakh employees and for them there were houses only for 4 per cent. Now we have to the tune of about five lakh employees and the percentage of houses available I think is not very much. We have not advanced very much in that respect and we are still where we were. This causes a serious handicap to the employees, particularly to those in out-of-the-way places and cities where the cost of living and rent for accommodation have gone up very much. On the one hand the Government is not able to pay enough by way of dearness allowance and, on the other, the Government is also incapable of giving the employees proper housing accommodation. These two things cannot go together. In the Third Five Year Plan Rs. 3 crores have been provided for building purposes and till today only a fraction of it has been expended.

Previously, the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs used to say that they had no engineering wing of their own. Now they are having one. But my feeling is that although they are having an engineering wing, it is neither properly staffed nor conveniently positioned. Therefore, I do not think much ice would be cut by this new department.

Another proposal, as I have been able to find out from the report is, that they are going to entrust some of the minor works to the State P.W.D. But I am afraid the State P.W.D. have their hands already full, and I do not know how much they will be able to do in this diarchical way. I have my own doubts about it. Therefore, let not the Ministry be complacent about the new proposal of entrusting the building works to the State department. It is better that they give more attention to the question of developing their own organisation.

In the matter of construction of buildings and other things, from their own report, it is apparent that the physical targets have not been achieved, particularly in my State. In Appendix XXXIX information regarding physical targets, accomplishments etc., of important schemes and projects costing over Rs. 25 lakhs is given. In Assam circle the percentages are 7, 8 and 2. It is very meagre. It shows that absolutely nothing has been done in that respect.

With regard to giving recreational facilities and other things, the story is equally sad. In the statement showing circle-wise the progress made in the matter of provision of staff amenities like canteen etc. in respect of Assam it is said:

1959-60—Nil
1960-61—Nil
1961-62—Nil
1962-63—Nil
1963-64—Nil

It shows that in spite of the fact that money has been provided nothing is being done. I am stressing this point not because it concerns the State from which I come, but because there are many people of the postal department put in that strategic area far away from their own residences and for whom some recreational facilities and some incentives are absolutely necessary. There is not even a modicum of incentive, modicum of comfort

in the form of residence or facilities like canteens etc. Government cannot say that Parliament has not given the money. Though Parliament is granting money, in spite of that the Ministry have failed to give the minimum facilities. Therefore, I draw pointed attention of the Minister in charge to this aspect of the question, particularly because he holds full charge of this subject.

Even in the matter of building construction and extension of buildings nothing has been done. This shows that the construction department is not doing it or is incapable of doing anything. Now the head office of the Engineering Department is in Calcutta with one Chief Engineer. He has to run from Calcutta to Shillong, Shilong to Manipur and Manipur to Dibrugarh with the result that it is impossible to expect anything from him. On the one hand we say we have our own engineering department; on the other, we cannot show any performance of the work that is entrusted to it.

Coming to the efficiency of the department, I am very sorry to say that there is a decline in the standard of efficiency. May I also say that the standard of honesty, which once was the hall mark of this department even in the time of foreign rule, has gone down? From the report of the Ministry you will be pleased to find that there has been an increase in the defalcation of public money. Loss of money orders, insured covers and parcels has become a regular or usual feature. It is strange that even after the losses are detected and claims are made the postal department takes two or three years to settle the claim. Very often they create such a situation that the insurer or the man who sends the money order is forced to go to a court for realising his dues. It is very unfortunate. The department seems to be under the impression that all these people are cheats and the department has somehow to prevent them from cheating the department.

Recently I came across a case in which some ornaments were sent by insured parcel from somewhere in Rajasthan. It was tampered with on the way. A claim was made and it was found to be a genuine one. Yet the party had to go to a court of law because no settlement was made by the department. Now it has become more or less like its counterpart, the railway department, in which almost all the claims are met only after the party files a case in the court. If that happens in the postal department also, it will mean a very bad day for the country. I hope the Minister in charge of this subject will look into this matter and see that misbehaviour and abuses on the part of the postal department are stopped. Claims should be settled with the least possible delay. Because, if a poor man sends Rs. 200 or 300 in an insured cover to a distant relative of his and if it is lost in transit and thereafter he has to run from place to place and finally go to the court to recover his claim, you can just visualise what confidence he will have in the department. Therefore, the hon. Minister should see that such things do not just happen. In this connection, I will refer to Appendix V of the Audit Report which clearly discloses the increase in the volume of defalcations.

Coming to the increase in post offices, both in rural areas and towns, on the one hand I am very pleased to find that there has been vast expansion of postal facilities. On the other hand, no step has been taken to consolidate the position. Sub-offices are not proportionately raised to branch offices and branch offices to head offices, with the result that there is complete lack of control. Now the whole thing is moving in a vicious circle. On the one hand, officers in charge are being blamed and, on the other, they cannot afford to have proper control over the entire machinery. Therefore, this aspect has to be properly seen. We should not simply try to get cheap

[Shri R. Barua]

popularity by saying there are so many post offices here and so many there because of some temporary fad. What is more important is that the postal department keep proper control over all the branches and there should be the right type and number of sub-offices, branch offices and head offices to manage all these things.

On the question of efficiency, I would like to remind the Minister that the right type of training is not given to the employees. With the advancement of science, we are having different types of communications. We have co-axial system, microwave system and other systems. In order to handle all these things, proper training must be given to the lines men and operators. I am told these people do not get the training they need. Though the work is advancing at a higher speed, there is no proportionate facility for increased training with the result that inefficiency is growing. So, I am of the opinion that along with the advance in facilities there should be proper arrangements for giving necessary training. Then, whatever refresher courses there are nowadays they are very meagre and not up to the mark.

Lastly, coming to the stores purchase and control, the Audit Report discloses that on account of the absence of risk purchase clause the department is incurring heavy losses. I do not understand why the risk purchase clause could not be incorporated in all the agreements, although it was pointed out in November 1959 by Audit. I hope the Minister will look into it.

Finally, I will express my appreciation of the Indian Telephone Industries. They have done very good work and given a good account of themselves. I hope in years to come they will do much better. With these words, I conclude.

Shri A. S. Alva (Mangalore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I also congratulate

the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs because they have done very good work and gained international reputation. Just to highlight the progress made by the department, I will just quote a few figures. In 1951 each post office covered an area of 90.6 sq. kilometres. It has been reduced to 36.26 sq. kilometres on 1st January, 1964. The number of post offices has increased from 22,116 on 15th August, 1947 to 90,239 on 1st January 1964. The average persons served by a post office has shrunk from 9,887 on 1st April 1951 to 4,867 on 1st January 1964. These are really very impressive figures. If we compare our country with other advanced countries, we are occupying the third place. In Australia one post office serves a population of 1,204. Next comes Canada with 1,542. The third is India with 4,867. So much so, we are ahead of Japan and United States.

An Hon. Member: That is all on paper.

Shri A. S. Alva: Anyhow, let us see how far we have progressed. As far as area is concerned, we are second. In Japan a post office covers 23.10 sq. kilometres and in our country 36.26 sq. kilometres.

15.00 hrs.

As far as the amenities are concerned, there is no use saying that there are other countries where they have got better amenities. We must also see that the poverty of the people and the riches of the people,—all those things—are correlated. But, at the same time, the figures which the Ministry has given in the Report will go to show that these are really impressive figures in spite of our poverty and we have advanced a lot.

As far as the Third Five Year Plan is concerned, we have programmed to open 23,000 post offices out of which we have already opened 12,966 where

emphasis has been laid on rural post offices. Out of 12,966 post offices already opened 905 are urban post offices and 12,061 are rural post offices.

We have also programmed for raising the status of the extra-departmental and sub-post offices numbering 2,500 of which we have already upgraded 1,290. Then, there is another scheme of opening 200 post offices in very backward areas; so much so that the Government is incurring a loss of Rs. 2,500 on each post office. Of these they have already opened 132 up to the 31st December, 1963. Thereafter another 25 post offices were opened.

As regards the programme of the Postal Department to start the Panchayat Postal Scheme under which letters etc. are delivered by the several Panchayats, that also they are experimenting. I have just quoted these figures to show that our Postal Department has really done very good work and they have progressed very much.

But, at the same time, as my hon. friend just now said, we should not be complacent in these matters because things are moving very fast. The Posts and Telegraphs Department, as a matter of fact, must cope with the present day conditions and as such they must streamline their own departments.

In this connection mention has been made of the Indian Telephone Industry where our requirements are being manufactured. But the progress made does not seem to be up to the mark. In 1962-63—I am quoting from the Report of the Indian Telephone Industries Limited, Bangalore—the target of telephones was 1,32,000 and for 1963-64 it was expected to be 1,70,000 out of which up to the 30th November 1963 the figure is only 93,280. Similarly, for the small exchange lines the target for 1963-64 was 40,640 of which we have achieved only 20,544 up to the 30th November, 1963. So, there is a lot of work to be done in this di-

rection also. I am sure, the Ministry will try its best to catch up with it and achieve the target.

Then, the Department could usefully extend the facilities of telephone to the villages where communication is difficult. As a matter of fact, as far as telephones are concerned, they have also extended their activities and I will not bother the House with the figures because they are really very impressive. They have really done very good work. But at the same time there was some difficulty. This also we have to put up with because on account of the operations in Goa and the emergency due to the invasion, it was not possible to extend telephone and postal facilities to the villages and rural areas. I believe, it was a question of the availability of copper wires and now that they are available, the Department must see that in the rural areas public call offices are opened as far as possible. I am particularly referring to the coastal areas of Mysore State and in other States also probably where communications are very difficult during the monsoon for about three or four months in a year. People will be really very much handicapped if they do not get any means of communication and if they cannot communicate from one place to another place. I am sure, the Department will give top priority to this and will see that those areas are also covered.

Then one other aspect has also been stressed. I will also say that as far as the building programme is concerned we are really lagging behind. Some of the post offices are actually housed in rented buildings and several complaints have been received from the landlords of those buildings to the effect that the rents are not paid properly and that the Department insists on a complicated procedure to be gone through before they get their rental. Some people even threaten the Department with suits and all those things. I am sure, the authorities will see that the parties will not be driven to filing suit because,

[Shri A. S. Alva]

after all, if suits are filed, it is only the Department and the Government that will suffer but the landlords will be getting not only their rent but also their costs. These things are to be avoided.

Then, Government must also speed up the programme. I am glad to note that they have simplified the procedure and have also entrusted the State PWDs with certain other works. They have also modified and taken away the rigidity as far as the buildings and all those things are concerned. Of course, proper care has to be taken to see that the essential things are not over-looked. For this purpose it is necessary that they should go ahead. I know of instances in some places where Head Post Offices have been sanctioned but the building has not come up so far either due to acquisition proceedings or due to other things. These things must be looked into and it should be seen that there is no complaint on this ground.

As far as the telephones are concerned, I also join in the complaint that we do not get connections to distant places. Sometimes, specially when we ring up Bangalore or some other place, we are told that the line is out of order and really we find it difficult to communicate. I do not know why this kind of a thing should occur. The Department should see that this also is remedied.

Then, one other thing that I have to submit is as regards the priorities in respect of giving telephone connections. I had raised this point in the Consultative Committee also. Even thereafter I have been receiving a number of complaints. There are two categories, namely, essential and non-essential and they have got their own code words and all those things. There are two sets in respect to this. Those people for whom it is ordered emergently, they are put in one class and the ordinary people are put in the other class. But as far as these

two sets are concerned, I request that the hon. Minister should personally look into the matter and direct all the heads of departments to see that people get their connections in the order of priority. Sometimes there are some committees and similar bodies. This gives rise to lot of complaints of favouritism or that an influential man who could just talk to the PMG or some other person is favoured with it. There should not be any room for complaints of this type. I am sure, the Government will look into this matter.

Then, I will submit one word as far as the wireless stations are concerned. In my own place, Mangalore, they have started both the receiving and transmitting stations. As far as I could gather—whenever I used to go there I used to ask them about this—though the land has been acquired, the building either of the transmitting or of the receiving station has not come up. I do not know for what reason. Since this is also an important thing, I am sure the Department will look into it, and see that the position is remedied.

Then, I would say a word about the telephone facilities which are being given. At the beginning of the Third Plan we had only 4,65,000 connections, and by the end of 1963-64 it is expected that 6,60,000 connections will be given. Steps are also being taken to automatise all those telephones, and I am sure that the Department will speed up this work.

Another noteworthy feature of the Department is the introduction of the system of direct dialling between different places. That work is also going on at a brisk pace, and I hope that Government will see that all the headquarters of the States will be connected sooner than expected.

I would not like to say anything more except that I congratulate the

Department on the good work that they have done, and I am sure that they will maintain their reputation. The credit also goes to the officers and men and all others also who are in the lowest rung who are doing their work very well.

With these words, I support the Demands of this Department.

श्री याज्ञिक (अहमदाबाद) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, डाक और तार मंत्रालय ने कई बातों में जो प्रगति की है उस के लिये मैं उसे बधाई देना चाहता हूँ। इस के साथ साथ मुझे कुछ सूचना भी करनी है और कुछ शिकायत भी करनी है। पहली सूचना तो यह है कि डाक और तार का बोर्ड बनाया गया है मगर उस को स्वायत्त नहीं बनाया गया है। यह बात ठीक है कि इस बार हमारे सामने इस मंत्रालय की तरफ से मांगें रखी गई हैं, अलग रिपोर्ट भी रखी गई है, मगर जैसा मेरे कई साथियों ने कहा, मैं भी चाहता हूँ कि यह मंत्रालय ज्यादा स्वायत्त बने। बजट की मर्यादा में खर्च करने की स्वतन्त्रता उस को मिली जिस के लिये बार बार उस को वित्त मंत्रालय में सम्मति लेने की जरूरत नहीं है।

सब से बड़ा सवाल जो हमारे सामने है वह इस मंत्रालय के कर्मचारियों के बारे में है। प्रगति तो बहुत हुई। ज्यादा कागज, ज्यादा डाक और ज्यादा टेलीफोन चलते हैं, आमदनी भी करीब करीब ८७ करोड़ ६० से बढ़ कर ९७ करोड़ ६० हो गई है, मगर जिन कर्मचारियों के श्रम की वजह से यह सब कार्यवाही होती है उन के लिये क्या किया गया है इस का कोई जिक्र रिपोर्ट में नहीं किया गया है। कल्याण निधि है, उस से से स्पेंडिंग के लिये कुछ इन्तजाम होता है, ठीक है। मगर आप तो जानते हैं कि कर्मचारियों की यूनिन है, उन का फंडेरेशन है। कर्मचारियों की यूनिन और फंडेरेशन की तरफ से क्या शिकायतें रखी जाती हैं,

क्या मांगें रखी जाती हैं, उन का भी कोई जिक्र रिपोर्ट में नहीं है। यह सब होता है मंत्रालय में जो चार लाख कर्मचारी हैं उनके सहयोग से। उन के लिये यह मंत्रालय क्या सोचता है, इस के बारे में भी रिपोर्ट में कोई जिक्र नहीं है। मेरी सूचना यह है कि जो सालाना रिपोर्ट बनाई जाये उस में एक खास प्रकरण या चैप्टर अलग से रखा जाये जिस में इस बात का पूरा जिक्र किया जाये कि उन कर्मचारियों के बारे में मंत्रालय क्या सोचता है, उन को क्या सुविधा देता है और उन के मंहगाई भत्ते में क्या बढ़ाव कर रहा है।

हम जानते हैं कि कर्मचारियों को मंहगाई भत्ता मिला दो रुपया, पांच रुपया, दस रुपया। यह हंसने की बात मालूम होती है इस मंहगाई के जमाने में। हमारे कई भाइयों ने जिक्र किया है कि यह मंहगाई भत्ता मिलता है लेकिन जब वह मिलता है तो सन् १९६५ से मिलता है। जब मंहगाई का अंक १२५ हुआ तब उस के ऊपर यह दो रुपया, पांच रुपया या दस रुपया मंहगाई भत्ता निश्चित किया गया है। लेकिन यह भी उन को १-११-६१ से नहीं मिलता है, यह बड़ी शिकायत का बात है। साथ ही सब से बड़ी बात यह है कि मंहगाई भत्ते की गिनती गलत है। महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात में सूती मिलों के कर्मचारियों की मंहगाई की गिनती के लिये जो कमेटी बनाई गई थी उस ने साफ इस बात को बतलाया है। मैं इस चीज को मानता हूँ कि वेतन पंच जो मुकरर हुए थे, उनको अलग हटा देना चाहिये। मैं अपने अनुभव से साफ देखता हूँ कि मंहगाई २५ से ४० प्रतिशत बढ़ गई है। यह सोचने की बात है कि अहमदाबाद और बम्बई में सूती मिल के कर्मचारियों को तो १५ ६० मिले, १० ६० मिले ज्यादा मंहगाई भत्ते के रूप में और जो वहाँ के डाक और तार के कर्मचारी हैं उन को २ ६०, ५ ६० मिले। इस को देखते हुए मेरे दिल में कोई शक नहीं है कि कर्मचारियों के दिल में बड़ा असंतोष होता है। थोड़े दिन पहले कर्मचारियों ने "डिमान्ड्स डे" मनाया था, कई जगहों पर

[श्री याज्ञिक]

काली पट्टी लगाई जाती है, जलूस निकाले जाते हैं। यह असन्तोष दिन पर दिन बढ़ता जाता है। मैं साफ कहना चाहता हूँ कि डाक और तार के कर्मचारियों के, सब केन्द्रीय और राज्यों के कर्मचारियों के लिये, नारे देश के कर्मचारियों के लिये, कामगारों के लिये जरूरी है कि इस मंहगाई के जमाने में कम से कम २५ रुपया ज्यादा मंहगाई भत्ता दिया जाये।

तीसरी बात यह है कि डाक और तार विभाग में काम करने वाले जो कर्मचारी हैं उन के घरों में ज्यादा सुविधा होनी चाहिये। बड़ों तकलीफ की बात यह है कि सन् १९६२-६३ में २ करोड़ २६ लाख रुपया खर्च किया गया था डाक और तारघरों और कर्मचारियों के मकानों के लिये लेकिन जब अब की बजट नया बनाया गया है उसमें सन् १९६४-६५ के लिये इस सम्बन्ध में केवल १ करोड़ ६४ लाख ६० रकखा गया है। यानि इसमें और कमी कर दी गई। इसमें बढ़ोतरी नहीं हुई है। आजकल सब जगहों पर मकानों का जो हालत है वह बहुत बुरी है, यह हम सब लोग जानते हैं। पिछले साल जो इस मंत्रालय के मंत्री थे उन्होंने ने साफ बतलाया था कि उन के दिल में इन मकानों से बहुत असन्तोष है। यह मकान किंग तरह के हैं मैं इस की भिसाल आप को दूँ। लुधियाना डाकघर सन् १८३२ में बनाया गया था किसी राजवंशी के लिये। उस का छप्पर ऐसा है कि पता नहीं वह बब नाँव गिर पड़ेगा। कर्मचारियों की संख्या बढ़ गई, वहाँ पर उन के हिलने डुलने के लिये जगह नहीं है। कर्मचारी बहुत परेशान होते हैं। और उसके नजदीक में, उससे कम्पाउण्ड में तार और टेलीफोन के लिए नया मकान बनाया है मगर डाकखाने के लिए नया मकान लुधियाना में नहीं बनाया गया है।

15.21 hrs.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

तूतीकोरन में सौ साल पुराना मकान है। वहाँ भी हलन चलन की काफी जगह नहीं है। छपरा उत्तका कब गिर जाएगा इसका पता नहीं। सौ आदमी काम करते हैं।

भाव नगर का डाकघर मैंने खुद देखा है। मुझे वह जेलखाना सा मालूम हुआ, अगर उस को बँक होना भी कहा जाए तो भी बुरा नहीं होगा। पहले से चार गुने ज्यादा कर्मचारी वहाँ काम करते हैं। उस इमारत में हवा और प्रकाश का ठीक इन्तिजाम नहीं है। नया मकान वहाँ बनाने का प्रस्ताव चल रहा है, लेकिन अभी तक इसका कोई फैसला नहीं हुआ है।

मद्रास में जमीन खरीदी गयी है अगर वहाँ मकान नहीं बना है।

ट्रिवेंड्रम का टेलीफोन का जो हिमाबी कार्यालय है उसमें बहुत बुरी हालत है। पुराना बंगला है, छपरा नीचा है, हवा नहीं है। घप के दिनों में कोई पंखा नहीं रखा जाता है। और जब कर्मचारियों ने शिकायत की तो कहा गया कि भाई खजूरी के पत्ते का पंखा चलाओ। इसके विरोध में वहाँ के कर्मचारी खजूरी के पत्ते का पंखा लेकर बाहर में फिरते रहे और लोगों का ध्यान आकर्षित किया।

ऐसी हालत हो तो आप देख सकते हो कि कर्मचारी ठीक से काम नहीं कर सकते। उनके मकानों की हालत और भी बुरी है। वेतन पंच ने बताया था कि रेलवे के कर्मचारियों के लिए ३६ फी सदी कर्मचारियों के लिए मकान बनाए गए हैं। दूसरे सब केन्द्रीय कर्मचारियों को मिला कर सबके लिए २१ प्रतिशत के लिए मकान बनाए गए हैं। मगर डाक और तार के केवल चार प्रतिशत कर्मचारियों के लिए मकान बनाए गए हैं। यह बड़े

शर्म की बात है, इसमें तेजी से काम क्यों नहीं किया जाता। सारी तीसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना में इस काम के लिए तीन बॉटि रूप-राखा गया था। मैं बड़े अदब से कहना चाहता हूँ कि तीन करोड़ से कुछ नहीं होगा। केन्द्र के जो तमाम मन्त्रालय हैं उनमें शायद डाक और तार के मन्त्रालय के मकान की हालत सब से बुरी है। इस मन्त्रालय के कर्मचारियों के रहने की कोई सुविधा नहीं है। इसके लिए मन्त्रालय को तेजी से कदम उठाना चाहिए और ज्यादा ध्यान इस ओर देना चाहिए। दस बीस करोड़ का चार पांच साल का प्रोग्राम रखना चाहिए। जमीन लेना चाहें तो मिल सकती है। तार घर के लिए मिलती है, टेलीफोन घर के लिए मिलती है। इस मन्त्रालय में जो बड़े लाट साहब हैं, जिनके पास सत्ता है, वे लोग जब चाहते हैं तो मकान बनाते हैं, चाहते हैं तो फौरन जमीन खरीद लेते हैं, चाहते हैं तो किसी तरह जमीन एकवायर कर लेते हैं। मेरे दिल में एक शक है। मन्त्री जी को तो शायद यह सब जानकारी नहीं होगी। मेरे दिल में शक है कि जो इस मन्त्रालय में बड़े बड़े अधिकारी हैं, सत्ताधीश हैं उनका इस बारे में दुर्लक्ष्य है। वे समझते हैं कि कर्मचारियों से काम ज्यादा लेते जाओ, उनका अंबार टाइन न दो, उनको ज्यादा वेतन भी देने की जरूरत नहीं है, उनका महंगाई भत्ता भी ज्यादा न बढ़ाओ, उनका मकान भी बँसा ही रहने दो, मगर उनसे काम ज्यादा लेते जाओ। यह हालत तो ठीक नहीं है। आज हमारे देश में लोकशाही है। मैं बहुत अदब से कहना चाहता हूँ कि ये जो बड़े बड़े अफसर लोग हैं उनके भी दिमाग की जरा भरम्मत करनी चाहिए। उनको जरा समझना चाहिए कि भारत आजाद है। मैं तो चाहता हूँ...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वैसे तो आप बहुत अच्छी हिन्दी बोल रहे हैं, मैं आपकी तारीफ करता हूँ, लेकिन दिमाग की भरम्मत—ये लफज हाउस के लिए अच्छे नहीं हैं।

श्री याज्ञिक : हमारे कई कर्मचारियों का
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टैस्ट लिया जाता है। तो मैं सुझाव रखता हूँ कि जो बड़े अधिकारी हैं उनके भी दिमाग का कुछ टेस्ट करना चाहिए। बड़े अफसर परीक्षा तो पास करते हैं, ठीक है, लेकिन वे ज्यादातर रुढ़िवादी होते हैं, वे ज्यादातर बड़े बड़े लोगों में रहते हैं। इसलिए उनको पता नहीं रहता कि गरीब कुचले हुए कर्मचारियों की हालत क्या है, वे कैसे काम करते हैं और कैसे मकानों में रहते हैं। यह हमारी लोकशाही के लिए बड़े शर्म की बात है। मेरा सुझाव है कि डाक और तार घर के मकानों के लिए बड़ी तेजी से कदम उठाया जाना चाहिए।

अब मैं आर० एम० एस० के कर्मचारियों के लिए दो शब्द कहना चाहता हूँ। यह एक अजीब बात है कि जो आर० एम० एस० के सारटर हैं उनके लिए सालाना टैस्ट रखा गया है। केन्द्रीय मन्त्रालय में तो हजारों लाखों कर्मचारी हैं, लेकिन ये जो आर० एम० एस० के सारटर हैं इनके लिए सालाना टैस्ट क्यों रखा जाता है यह मेरी समझ में नहीं आता। और खास बात तो यह है कि वे जब इस टैस्ट में पास हो जाते हैं तभी उनको बढ़ोत्तरी मिलती है नहीं तो नहीं मिलती। उनको सालाना बढ़ोत्तरी तब मिलती है जब वे परीक्षा में पास हो जाते हैं। यह बड़ी शिकायत की बात है। बड़ी तकलीफ की बात है। कई दूसरे कर्मचारी हैं उनका कोई पांच साल में या दस साल में टैस्ट होना है, मगर ये जो आर० एम० एस० के सारटर हैं उन्होंने क्या गुनाह किया है। क्या वे कोई और किस्म के आदमी हैं, या और किस्म के कर्मचारी हैं कि उनके लिए सालाना टैस्ट रखा गया है। यह कोई अक्ल की बात नहीं मालूम होती है। तो मैं बड़े अदब से मन्त्री जी को कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो सालाना टैस्ट है आर० एम० एस० के कर्मचारियों के लिए इसे फौरन हटा दिया जाए।

इसी प्रकार एक बात और मैं आर० एम० एस० के कर्मचारियों के बारे में कहना

[श्री याज्ञिक]

चाहता हूँ। जब ये लोग ३६ घंटे के लिए सरकारी काम पर बाहर जाते हैं तो इनको २ रुपया आउट स्टेशन प्लाउंस दिया जाता है, रेलवे का ड्राइवर जब इतने समय के लिए बाहर काम पर जाता है तो उसको १८ रुपये दिये जाते हैं और टी० टी० इंस्पेक्टर को, जो कि आर० एम० एस० के सारटर के कक्षा का कर्मचारी है, साढ़े सात रुपया दिया जाता है। लेकिन यह आर० एम० एस० का कर्मचारी, जो कि सारी रात काम करता है, इसको दो रुपया दिया जाता है। मेरा कहना है कि अगर आप इसको ड्राइवर की तरह १८ रुपया न दो तो कम से कम ६ या ७ रुपया तो इस मिलना ही चाहिए। यह ३६ घंटे बाहर रहता है, और खाने पीने में, चाय में और इधर उधर फिरने में इसका काफी खर्चा हो जाता है। यह देखते हुए मैं अब ब से कहना चाहता हूँ मंत्री जी से कि इस बारे में सोचना चाहिए और कम से कम इन कर्मचारियों को साढ़े सात रुपये का भत्ता देना चाहिए।

आखिर में मैं एक बात और कह देना चाहता हूँ। यह लोकशाही का जमाना है और आपने यूनिवर्स को मान्यता दी है। हिन्दुस्तान भर में काफी यूनिवर्स हैं, सरकिल में भी यूनिवर्स हैं और उनका फेडरेशन भी है। उनके साथ सलाह मशविरा भी होता रहता है। सब सरकिलों में यूनिवर्स के प्रतिनिधियों के साथ सलाह मशविरा करने की रीति रस्म है। आज मंत्रालय तथा यूनिवर्स के बीच में बहुत अछड़ा सम्बन्ध होना चाहिए। यह चीज लोकशाही के लिए और मंत्रालय के काम की सफलता के लिए जरूरी है। इसलिए मैं इसके लिए खास विनती करता हूँ कि मंत्री जी इस ओर देखें और जो मंत्रालय के बारे में रिपोर्ट अगले साल में रखी जाये उसमें यह यूनिवर्स और फेडरेशन के साथ कैसे समझौता होता है, उसकी रूपा फरियाद होती है और उसका

कम निकाल होता है इसके बारे में उसमें काफी तौर से प्रकाश डाला जाय।

Shri Mahesh Dutta Misra (Khandwa): While I rise to support the Demands of the P & T Department, I wish to offer my compliments to the Government and the Prime Minister for separating this Department from the composite Ministry of Transport and Communications. Now, I think there would be better opportunity for separate discussion of this Department whenever it is raised here in this House, but, I would like to say that, like the Railway Board, as Members have demanded, this Department should also enjoy more autonomy not only in matters of finance, but in other spheres as well.

While raising this demand for autonomy, I do not wish to say that it should be completely separated, because it is one of those departments which runs across the country, or, physiologically speaking, it forms the nervous or artery system of this country, and so it cannot be separated in that sense, but I agree with Members that if there is more autonomy given to this Department, it might function more efficiently and more ably.

The problem raised by several Members here is that the Department is not working efficiently, or that there is not enough efficiency in this Department because certain conditions have not been fulfilled. I think it is a matter of serious concern when we find that people complain about telegrams being received after the letter has reached the destination, or trunk calls not being attended to or not being given even after five, six, seven or eight hours, or some cases of default etc. Of course, there are various reasons for this kind of inefficiency or lack of efficiency, and they must be looked into, and I think a high level enquiry is needed to go into the whole problem as to how

efficiency could be increased in this Department.

But there are certain questions which need the attention of the people as well. They have also not been sympathetically looking at this problem. Whether it is Parliament or the people or public opinion, the workers of this Department are generally neglected.

I wish to refer to the whole question in a different context. While admitting that there is a lot of corruption and dishonesty in this country,—I think every department has its share in this prevalent corruption, I do not know the magnitude of it—I must say that this Department of Posts and Telegraphs is by far the most honest department. Of course, there are certain complaints against certain workers, but this Department, I think, is running most efficiently and most honestly in this country as compared to others. So, when we talk of efficiency or honesty in the general context, of our national conditions, we should not be unfair to the Posts and Telegraphs Department only.

A demand has been made by various Members, and since it touches my own home State, I would like to repeat it, that the Madhya Pradesh Circle must be created as early as possible. If it is not possible to lodge the offices of the Madhya Pradesh Circle at Bhopal, because it would take time to construct the buildings temporary arrangements could be made by locating the office at Nagpur and separating it from the Central Circle. I think the technical difficulty should be overcome by some such *via media*, and I think it could be done.

Then, Sir, many suggestions have been made by hon. friends for increasing efficiency. I would like to read from the Pay Commission's Report of 1959. The following observations were made by them:

"Recruitment policy and methods, training, system of placements and supervision, equipment including the use of machinery where necessary, methods and organisation of work, and even the structure of a Department and the nature of the machinery of Government, may all contribute in varying degrees to the state of efficiency."

Therefore, I want to look at this problem from a wider angle. The Pay Commission made many recommendations, but I do not know what action has been taken, except that a selection board has been established for certain cadres.

Some Members complained about training arrangements. I think there is lack of training arrangements also. They are not sufficient, and certain hands have to work on lines for which they are not fully equipped.

Then, there has been mention about refresher courses. I think that should be done as early as possible.

Because of our democratic set-up there has been a vast increase in the number of post offices, telephone lines, telephone exchanges and telegraph offices, and even now we want all kinds of improvements. A 24-hour service has been introduced in some places, but one must admit that the arrangements that have been made are thoroughly inadequate. I have also seen some of these offices while visiting some cities in the country as Chairman of the NFPTE. I was told workers are put to a lot of inconvenience. Sometimes they live five or six miles away from their office, and they have to come for night duty, and they do not find any arrangement for sleeping etc. I do not wish to enumerate all these difficulties, but I would like to say that the arrangements are in many cases thoroughly inadequate.

The Pay Commission also suggested that there should be some incentive

[Shri Mahesh Dutta Misra]

given to the workers, and they wanted incentive awards to be given. I do not know what action has been taken, but it is reported that whatever was suggested by the Commission has not been done in the manner suggested by them. So, I think the Ministry should look into the matter about the complaints of the workers.

There was also a suggestion about a task force, and in order to improve efficiency of the P. & T. workers, almost all the workers' unions suggested that efficiency councils should be established. The whole country talks about the inefficiency of the Department, and the workers of the Department also want to do something. But there are certain things that the Government must do, and certain things must be attended to by the workers themselves. So, they have suggested that there should be efficiency councils, which could look into the details of particular departments, and find out where the fault lies.

Looking to the situation in an overall manner, I would like to suggest that as early as possible, a high level enquiry should be set up so that it could take the whole picture in a general way and go into the details as to how efficiency could be improved. But, as I said, and as the Pay Commission has also said, emphasis has got to be laid on the service conditions. For instance, workers wanted dearness allowance to be linked with the cost of living, but nothing has been done so far. Only Rs. 2 have been given to the workers, who have to buy wheat and other necessities of life, and we can understand in these hard days how they can manage by getting only Rs. 2 more in their pay.

The Budget shows that there is a surplus, so far as the P & T. Department is concerned, of about Rs. 10 crores. I do not understand why

more development plans cannot be undertaken when there is such a surplus. Like the railways, we are also contributing a large sum of the general revenues. After deducting so many things, there is a surplus shown in the 1964-65 Budget of Rs. 3:67 crores. This net surplus has been diverted towards two items: development fund and revenue reserves. Everybody knows that P & T. is not a business concern, although it is run as in business like manner. But one can say that there will not be wide fluctuations in the supply and demand position. Besides, we are everyday expanding the department and are getting more and more revenue every year. Therefore, I do not think there is any necessity of diverting so much amount to go into the reserves; a nominal sum could be diverted and all the rest could be diverted towards the development fund. We have so many outstanding demands of the workers that have to be met and I would like to cite only two demands totalling Rs. 40 lakhs.

For instance, the workers have been demanding for the last few years that more money should be given to the lower selection grade workers; roughly it comes to Rs. 15 lakhs. They want a special pay for the cashiers. Cashier of every other department have been given more allowance and more pay according to the recommendations of the Pay Commission. But in the P&T department set-up the special pay for the cashiers has not been implemented. That will come to about Rs. 25 lakhs. If this recommendation is implemented, there will be more efficiency and general satisfaction in the whole department. I request the hon. Minister to look into this matter. Once these things are voted upon, the Finance Department would raise objections and would not allow anything to be done to the workers and so, I would again appeal to the Minister that he must look into

the whole question of diversion of the surpluses.

Nobody would object to there being more telegraph offices and new post offices. But all this must be stabilised in the sense that all this must be done in a manner that there is no extra load on the workers. We should not expect them to go on working more and more without giving them proper staff, equipment, facilities; the opening of new offices or increasing the existing services such as 24 hours service—I do not want to go into details—creates additional workload for the workers which should be looked into. From the complaints that come to me from the workers, I can very well say that there is no proportion between the demands of the people, the anxiety of the department to satisfy that demand and the improvement in the conditions of service.

With these words, I support the demands and hope that these matters will be dealt with properly.

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, पोस्ट्स एंड टेलीग्राफ्स डिपार्टमेंट की मांगों पर बोलते हुए मुझे ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि इस सम्बन्ध में जितने पैसे की व्यवस्था की जाती है, उतना पैसा खर्च नहीं होता है और जो खर्च किया जाता है, उसकी परवाह नहीं की जाती है, क्योंकि इस विभाग में गोलमाल ज्यादा होते हैं।

इस विभाग की दो तीन फ्रैक्टरियां या वर्कशाप हैं। यहां से जो माल रिजेक्ट हो कर उनमें जाता है, वहां पर वह रद्दी की टोकरी में डाल दिया जाता है और उसकी बिल्कुल परवाह नहीं की जाती है। इस विभाग में आजकल चोरियां काफी होने लग गई हैं, जिनसे इसको काफी नुकसान उठाना पड़ा है। मैं कुछ वर्कशाप्स के बारे में बताना चाहता हूं कि उनमें कितना गोलमाल हुआ है। जितने पैसे का गोलमाल

हुआ है, अगर वही पैसा सही तौर पर से इस्तेमाल किया जाता, तो शायद इस देश के गांवों में टेलीफोन लगाने में कुछ सफलता मिल जाती।

१९६२-६३ तक हमारे गांवों में १,३७,३२२ टेलीफोन लगाए गए। हमारे हिन्दुस्तान में कुल गांव हैं ४५ लाख। अगर राजस्थान की तरह सारे देश में ग्राम-पंचायतें स्थापित कर दी जायें, तो तकरीबन सात, साढ़े सात लाख ग्राम पंचायतें हो जायेंगी। मैं समझता हूं कि ग्राम-पंचायतों के स्थान पर टेलीफोन होना बहुत जरूरी है। लेकिन इस सम्बन्ध में अभी तक जो प्रगति हुई है—अर्थात् दस बारह सालों में एक लाख से कुछ ऊपर टेलीफोन लगाए गए हैं—, उसको देखते हुए तो यह जन्म भर की मानोपली हो जायेगी, जन्म भर यह काम होता रहेगा। अगर हम प्रगति की इस रफ्तार से देश का उद्धार करना चाहें और देश में समानता लाना चाहें, तो यह कभी भी संभव नहीं है। इसलिए हमको प्रोग्रेस की गति बढ़ानी पड़ेगी। तब जाकर हमारे गांवों में टेलीफोन की व्यवस्था हो सकेगी।

जहां तक दिल्ली का सम्बन्ध है, दर-रुवास्तों के पुलन्दे के पुलन्दे पेंडिंग पड़े हुए हैं और लोगों को यह बताने वाला कोई भी नहीं मिलता है कि उनको फ्लां टाइम पर कनेक्शन मिल जायेगा। दिल्ली में थो० वाई० टी० की योजना बिल्कुल असफल हुई है। लोगों ने दो दो हजार रुपये जमा करा दिये हैं और वे कतार बना कर खड़े रहते हैं, लेकिन उनकी कोई सुनवाई नहीं होती है और कोई आफिसर यह भी नहीं कहता है कि क्या बात है, किस तरह आये हो।

कहा जाता है कि विभाग के पास सामान नहीं है। अगर गवर्नमेंट सामान मंगाने में या उसको बनाने में फेल हुई है, तो वह प्राइवेट कम्पनियों से सामान ले और जिन लोगों से उसने दो दो हजार रुपये ले रखे हैं, कम से कम

[श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा]

उनको तो टेलीफोन दे दिया जाये। अगर यह भी संभव न हो, तो एक कारपोरेशन बना कर उसको यह काम सौंप दिया जाये, या किसी को ठेका दे दिया जाये कि वह गांवों में टेलीफोन लगाने की व्यवस्था करे। सरकार को इसलिये नहीं मालूम पड़ता है, क्योंकि टेलीफोन से जो पैसा आता है, वह रेवेन्यू में जमा हो जाता है और उसको यह भी पता नहीं होता है कि कितनी इनकम हुई है और कितना खर्च करना है। अगर सरकार के अपने जिम्मे यह काम हो, तो उसको पता लगे कि कितना रुपया आया है और कितना खर्च करना है। वह पैसा तो डायरेक्ट चला जाता है और सरकार को पता ही नहीं है। मेरा निवेदन है कि अगर सरकार से इस बारे में कोई इन्तज़ाम नहीं हो सकता है, तो वह या तो कोई कन्ज्यूमर्ज़ सोसायटी बना कर या ऐसी कोई और व्यवस्था करके टेलीफोन के सामान का निर्माण करे। इसके वगैर देश में समानता आना बहुत मुश्किल है।

जो रुपया निर्माण कार्यों में खर्च किया जाता है, उसकी देखभाल होना बहुत जरूरी है, क्योंकि जो देश की सम्पत्ति है, उसके एक एक पैसे का सदुपयोग करना, ख़ास तौर से इस समय बहुत जरूरी है। मैं आप को बताना चाहता हूँ कि कितना नुकसान किन किन कम्पनी और किन किन मद में हुआ है।

जहाँ तक मद्रास के आंकड़ों का सम्बंध है, वहाँ पर १९६२ में चोरी के ५५८२ केसिज़ हुए, जिन में १३,२९,००३ रुपये का नुकसान हुआ। यह चोरी तो किसी ने की और नुकसान पोस्टम एंड टेलिग्राफ्स डिपार्टमेंट का हुआ।

चोरी और एकिवडेंट्स से १२.५१ लाख रुपये का नुकसान हुआ। १९५५ से १९६३ तक ३.१ लाख रुपये का माल रिपेयर

के लिये मद्रास वर्कशाप को भेजा गया, लेकिन आज तक उसकी रिपेयर नहीं हुई। मद्रास में जो टेलीफोन रिपेयर वर्कशाप खुला हुआ है, वह सिर्फ मद्रास टेलीफोन डिस्ट्रिक्ट के सामान की मरम्मत करता है लेकिन यहाँ से जो सामान रिपेयर के लिये भेजा जाता है उसकी तरफ वह कोई ध्यान नहीं देता है। वह सामान इकट्ठा होते होते एक ढेर हो गया है, लेकिन उसकी कोई परवाह नहीं की जाती है। अगर वह वर्कशाप उसकी परवाह नहीं करता है, तो विभागा की सिमी प्राइवेट कम्पनी के द्वारा उसकी मरम्मत करानी चाहिये। क्या वजह है कि वप मद्रास स्टेट के माल की मरम्मत का काम तौ हाथ में ले लेकिन दूसरों का काम वह न करे। उनके साथ सक्ती हानी चाहिये। जो राष्ट्र की सम्पत्ति है, वह रद्दी की टोकरी में नहीं फेंकी जानी चाहिये।

अब मैं अलीपुर की वर्कशाप की बात कहता हूँ। वहाँ पर १.६९ लाख का माल १९६१, १९६२ और १९६३ तक रिपेयर के लिए भेजा गया था। वह माल आज तक पड़ा हुआ है, कोई परवाह ही नहीं करता है। अगर वे उसकी रिपेयर करना चाहें तो कर सकते हैं। वहाँ का जो प्रोडक्शन है वह बहुत अधिक है, इसलिए उसकी वे परवाह ही नहीं करते हैं। यही वजह है कि यह सारा माल वैसा का वैसा पड़ा हुआ है, रिपेयर ही नहीं हुआ है। यहाँ से लिया जाता है लेकिन फिर भी कोई परवाह नहीं करता है। यह माल इस तरह से पड़ा नहीं रहना चाहिये और इस आँर भी आपका ध्यान जाना चाहिये।

दिल्ली वर्कशाप के बारे में अब मैं कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ। पिछले सालों की ही बात मैं आपको बताता हूँ। १९६१ तक १३.६ लाख का स्टोर भेजा गया था रिपेयर के लिये। उसमें से ११.५ लाख के माल के बारे में उन्होंने कह दिया कि यह बिल्कुल रद्दी है, इसको हम बिल्कुल कडेम समझसे

हैं और उसको फेंक दिया। बाकी ९६ हजार का माल उन्होंने रिपेयर के लिए लिया। १९६३ तक कुछ की रिपेयर की गई और ३५,००० रुपये का माल अभी भी बाकी पड़ा हुआ है।

अब मैं जबलपुर स्टोर की बात करता हूँ। आपने १५.५८ लाख रुपये का माल जबलपुर वर्कशाप में भेजा १९६३ मार्च तक।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैंने कोई माल वहां नहीं भेजा है।

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा : रिपेयर के लिए भेजा है, यह मैं बता रहा हूँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैंने नहीं भेजा है।

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा : सरकार से मेरा मतलब है। मंत्रिमंडल बैठे हुए हैं, उसकी जिम्मेदारी है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मंत्रिमंडल को न कहें जो कहना है मुझे कहें।

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा : आपके द्वारा कहा जा रहा है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जो मेरे द्वारा कहा जाता है, वह सीधा चला जाता है।

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा : कोई भी ऐसी बात हो, चारों तरफ नजर कर...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : नजर नहीं करनी चाहिये।

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा : आपके द्वारा कहा जा रहा है।

इस में से ७८ परसेंट ऐसा माल बताया जाता है जो मरम्मत के काबिल नहीं। इस माल के बारे में एक कमेटी बना कर आप विचार कर रहे हैं कि वह माल बनने लायक

है या नहीं। उस कमेटी ने अभी तक रिपोर्ट नहीं दी है कि यह माल कंटेम कर दिया जाए या इसकी मरम्मत हो सकती है। कमेटी को चाहिये कि वह जल्दी से जल्दी रिपोर्ट दे क्योंकि हमारे यहां टेलीफॉन की बहुत कमी है।

अब मैं बम्बई की वर्कशाप की बात कहता हूँ। बम्बई टेलीफोन वर्कशाप ने ३५,००० स्विच बोर्ड प्लग १९५८ से १९६१ तक बनाये डिपार्टमेंटल यूज के लिए जिनकी कीमत २९,६०० होती है। इनमें से २,०६५ स्विच बोर्ड प्लग जिनकी कीमत १७,५०० के करीब होती है डिपार्टमेंट द्वारा नामजूर कर दिये गये और कह दिया गया कि यह बेकार है। प्लग अभी कम्पनी ने बनाये, डिपार्टमेंट ने बनवाये और फिर भी कह दिया गया कि १७,५०० की कीमत के प्लग बेकार हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि पहले से ही क्यों ऐसा नक्शा पास किया गया क्यों ये गलत तरीके से बनाये गये थे। बाद में उनको स्कैप समझ कर ११०० रुपये में बेच दिया गया। यह राफ्ट का नुकसान है और इस तरह की चीजों की ओर आपका ध्यान जाना चाहिये।

दूसरे चार हजार प्लग १९५८-५९ तक तैयार किये गये। उन में से १५२० फिर रिजैक्ट कर दिये गये जिनकी कीमत ४,६०० होती है। क्या रिजैक्ट करने का ठेका इस पी० एण्ड टी० डिपार्टमेंट ने ही ले रखा है? समझ में नहीं आता है कि जो माल आपकी वर्कशाप में बनता है उसको रिजैक्ट कैसे कर दिया जाता है? क्या इंजीनियर लोग इसको देखते नहीं हैं कि अच्छा बन रहा है या नहीं बन रहा है। इन दोनों केसिस में कुल २१,००० रुपये का नुकसान हुआ।

जबलपुर में ११८ लाख रुपये १९६१ में १९६३ तक सामान खरीदने पर ज्यादा खर्च हुए। गैलियेनाइज्ड ट्यूब्स खरीदी गई थी जिस कम्पनी ने बनाई थी उसने कह दिया कि

[श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा]

स्टील की चादरें नहीं मिल रही हैं। इसलिए डायरेक्टर जनरल सप्लाई एंड डिस्पोजल किसी दूसरी जगह से माल ले लें। इसके अन्दर १८ से ३८ परसेंट अधिक खर्च हुआ। पहले से इसको खरीद लिया गया होता तो यह नुकसान नहीं होता। आर्डर तो दे दिया जाता है लेकिन माल स्टोक में होता नहीं है और न ही पूरा माल बनता है और उसका नतीजा यह होता है कि मांग को बाहर से खरीद कर पूरा किया जाता है जिम में नुकसान उठाना पड़ता है। जब इस तरह से रुपया इधर उधर चला जाता है तो मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि गांवों का विकास टेलीफोन डिपार्टमेंट के द्वारा तो हो नहीं सकता है। जबलपुर में ट्यूब मेकिंग वर्कशॉप में सीविड शिफ्ट चलाने के लिए १९६२ मई में फैसला किया गया था और कहा गया था कि रात की पाली चलनी चाहिये। लेकिन वह चली नहीं और परेशान हो कर दूसरी कम्पनी से माल लेना पड़ा। इस तरह से कराड़ों रुपये का गोलमाल हुआ। राष्ट्र की सम्पत्ति का जो नुकसान हुआ उसको किसी भी मूल्य में सहन नहीं किया जा सकता है।

अब मैं आर० एम० एस० के बारे में कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ। अपने कोटा क्षेत्र की बात मैं करता हूँ। एक आर० एम० एस० का डिब्बा बड़ौदा से लगा आता है। वह इतनी छोटी बोगी होती है कि उसके अन्दर सारे डाक के थैले घुस भी नहीं पाते हैं फिर बैठने वालों को जगह मिलने की तो बात ही क्या। पहले भी इसका मैंने जिक्र किया था और माननीय जगजीवन राम जी ने कहा था कि इसको हम बदल देंगे। पता नहीं क्यों उसको आज तक बदला नहीं गया है। शायद उसका कोई नक्शा पास ही नहीं हुआ है या आपके पास बड़ा डिब्बा ही नहीं है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि वह डिब्बा इतना बड़ा तो हो कि स्टाफ के आदमी अच्छी तरह से बैठ सकें और थैले भी उस में आसानी से आ सकें। अगर उनको

बैठने का स्थान मिल जाये तो वे काम अच्छी तरह से कर सकते हैं।

जो लोकल गाड़ी चलती है बड़ौदा से मथुरा तक, उसके अन्दर अगर मेल बैन लगे तो स्टेशन स्टेशन पर वह ठहरता जा सकता है। तब जो स्टाफ है वह मेल बैन में डाक उतारेगा और उसी दिन उस डाक को गांव में पहुंचा देगा। आजकल होता यह है कि १९ डाक से मेल बैन जाता है और आठ आठ और दस दस स्टेशनों के बाद वह ठहरता है। जो डाक कर्मचारी डाक लेने के लिए आते हैं वे आठ दस दिन के बाद ही डाक पहुंचा पाते हैं। इस वास्ते मैं चाहता हूँ कि मेल बैन न्वलाया जाये। यह बहुत जरूरी है। यह लोकल गाड़ी में चलना चाहिये।

आर० एम० एस० वालों को जो बर्दियां मिलनी हैं वह तीन तीन साल के बाद मिलती है। थर्ड क्लास वालों की हालत को आप देखें। बुरी उनकी हालत होती है। एक साल में ही वे बर्दियां फट जाती हैं थैले उठाते उठाते। आठ आने या एक रुपया महीने का जो उनको साबुन या साबुन के पैसे मिलते थे, वे भी बन्द कर दिये गये हैं इस संकटकाल के नाम पर। संकटकाल उनके लिए ही आ गया है, ऐसा मालूम देता है। आपने दो चार पांच या दस रुपये जो बढ़ाये हैं, वे निल के बराबर हैं, उनको देखते हुए जो महंगाई है। इस आर आपका ध्यान जाना चाहिये।

आपने भर्ती के लिए जो क्वालिफिकेशन रखी है वह मैट्रिकुलेशन रखी है। इतना होने पर भी ज्यादा आदमी आपके डिपार्टमेंट के अन्दर नहीं आते हैं। इसका कारण क्या है इसको आप देखें। कारण यह है कि मेहनत अधिक होती है और तनखवाह लोगों को पसन्द मिलती है। इसलिए लोग आपके डिपार्टमेंट में आते नहीं हैं। आपने २५१ आदमी लिये जिन में से शैड्यूल्ड कास्ट के केवल दो और शैड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स के केवल

तीन आदमी थे। क्या वजह है कि शैड्यूल्ड कास्ट और शैड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स के आदमी आप को नहीं मिलते हैं। आप अनियमिततायें बरतते हैं। आप उनको लेना नहीं चाहते हैं। उनको अधिक जगहें दी जानी चाहिये थीं।

आर० एम० एस० वालों के लिए जगह जगह आपने अच्छे रैस्ट हाउस बना रखे हैं। कोटा में भी रैस्ट हाउस है। शायद उस रैस्ट हाउस की दस साल में एक बार भी पुताई नहीं हुई है। उसमें दिल्ली की जनसंख्या को अगर आप लें तो उससे ज्यादा खटमल आप को भिल जायेंगे। अगर आप समझते हैं कि वह गवर्नमेंट बिल्डिंग है तो साल भर में उस में पुताई एक बार तो होनी चाहिये, एक बार तो उसको सुधारा जाना चाहिये।

कोटा के अन्दर जो पोस्ट एंड टेलीग्राफ का दफ्तर है वह मेरे खयाल से सौ, डेढ़ सौ या दो सौ साल पहले बना था, उसकी बिल्डिंग बनी थी। कई बार मैंने कन्सल्टेटिव कमेटी में कहा है इसके बारे में। कभी कह दिया जाता है कि नक्शा बन गया है और कभी कह दिया जाता है कि ड्राफ्ट पास हो गया है, कभी कुछ और कह दिया जाता है। लेकिन अभी तक उसके लिए नई बिल्डिंग नहीं बन पाई है। आप करोड़ों रुपये की बिल्डिंग बनाते हैं और बहुत जल्दी बना कर रख देते हैं। कब तक आप इस बिल्डिंग को नहीं बनायेंगे? उसका बनाया जाना भी बहुत जरूरी है।

अर्जेंट लैटर्ज की, एक्सप्रेस लैटर्ज की जो आप डिलीवरी देते हैं उस में होता यह है कि जो आदमी उन चिट्ठियों को ले जाने वाला होता है उसको साइकल नहीं दिया जाता है। वह बेचारा पैदल फिरता है और इसका नतीजा यह होता है कि आज की चिट्ठियां कल मिलती हैं। उनको साइकल दिया जाना चाहिये। कोटा शहर इतना बढ़ गया है कि एक आदमी अगर फिर तो सारे दिन में आधा

शहर भी नहीं फिर पायेगा। इस और आप ध्यान दें।

जो डाक का ठेका आपने दे रखा है वह कोटा ट्रांसपोर्ट कम्पनी को दे रखा है। गाड़ियां अगर दस मील चल जायें तो वहीं ठहर जाती हैं। फिर दूसरे दिन चजती है। इसलिये यह टेन्डर कैंसेल कर के दूसरे को दिया जाय।

16 hrs.

एक बात मैं और कहना चाहूंगा कि आर० एम० एस० वाले जब डाक ले कर जी० आई० पी० की ओर जाते हैं तो उनको ब्राड गेज पर पहुंचने के लिये लाइन क्रॉस करनी पड़ती है। इसलिये उन के वास्ते स्टेशन पर अंडरप्राउंड रास्ता बनाया जाये जैसा कि लखनऊ और अहमदाबाद रेलवे स्टेशनों पर है, जिस में कि ठेला का ठेला उस पर से निकल जाये। ऐसी व्यवस्था शीघ्र से शीघ्र कर दी जानी चाहिये।

उनकी तन्खाहों में जो संशोधन किया गया है वह निल के बराबर है।

मैं एक बात के लिए आप को अवश्य धन्यवाद दूंगा कि आप ने कोटा के आर० एम० एस० का नया दफ्तर खोल दिया है। इस से वहां के लोगों को बहुत सुविधा मिल रही है। लेकिन यह अवश्य कहूंगा कि उन को कार्य प्रणाली जो है वह बहुत खराब है। आप ने साल भर पर टेस्ट तो रख दिया है लेकिन उस सम्बन्ध में कोई सुनवाई नहीं करता। आप लोगों से इम्तहान तो दिलवा देते हैं, उन से फार्म ले लेते हैं लेकिन दो दो साल तक कर्मचारियों को भरती नहीं करते। जो रिपोर्ट मैंने पढ़ी है उस से पता चलता है कि हर जगह पर कर्मचारियों की कमी है। इसलिये आप कर्मचारियों की संख्या बढ़ायें। डाक और तार को सही टाइम पर वितरित किया जाय और लोगों के लिये नये डाकखाने

[श्री श्रीनार लाल बेरवा]

बनाये जायें। जब इन सब बातों की व्यवस्था कर दी जायेगी तभी उद्धार हो सकता है।

The Deputy Minister in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs (Shri Bhagavati): Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members who have participated in the discussion on these Demands and made some important points. The hon. Minister will reply to the basic points raised by the hon. Members. I will deal with some of the points. I would first like to give an outline of the work we have been doing so far.

The mid-term appraisal of the third Plan reveals that the P. & T. Department has achieved the targets according to the Plan programme. Out of the total Plan allocation of Rs. 77.6 crores, Rs. 56 crores is expected to be spent by the end of 1963-64. We are confident that all targets will be achieved by the end of the Plan and in some cases the physical targets for the entire Plan will be exceeded.

As regards post offices, out of 23,000 post offices to be opened during the Third Plan period, 12,966 (905 urban and 12,061 rural) new post offices have been opened upto the end of December, 1963. The target for the number of Branch and E.D. post offices to be upgraded during the Third Plan period was 2,500. Out of this, 1,290 have been upgraded upto 31st December, 1963.

I am glad to say that in the postal side, the expansion compares favourably with some of the advanced countries like U.K., USA, Canada and Japan. While the traffic of postal articles has increased from about 2,300 million to about 5,400 million articles, the number of post offices has increased from 22,116 to 92,239. Thus since independence although there has been only about 135 per cent increase in the postal traffic, the number of post offices has increased by about 319 per cent. The increase in traffic is generally attributed to big cities and there

has been no perceptible increase in the traffic in the rural areas. Even then, more than 90 per cent of the post offices now in existence are located in rural areas. This proves that special attention has been paid to the rural areas. Now postal expansion programme will have to concentrate more in the backward areas. The progressively liberalised policy of opening post offices in the permissible limit of loss of Rs. 750 or Rs. 1,000 per annum per post office, as the case may be, and at very backward areas, mostly tribal and border areas, at an enhanced permissible limit of Rs. 2,500 per annum per post office, has been followed. The Department had to suffer loss in the working expenses on Experimental Post Offices to the tune of Rs. 1,79,46,728.63 nP. during the Second Plan period and Rs. 1,27,90,877.85 nP. during the first two years of the third Plan. In spite of such loss, the Department had to continue the policy of expanding its programme of opening post offices in the border and backward areas, especially in the Hills as a public utility service. But, then, there is need for consolidating and improving the postal service.

16-06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: May I know how many branch post offices and how many sub-post offices have been opened?

Shri Bhagavati: I have already indicated it.

The Department is alive to the fact that there is much scope and need for improvement of mail and delivery services. There are at present about 8,000 villages where delivery is effected at an interval of more than a week. With the opening of more post offices, and more particularly with employment of additional delivery staff, this number will further

decrease during the Third Plan. There are still about 272 'No Dak' villages. All these are expected to be wiped out by the end of the Third Plan.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Villages will be wiped out? What will be wiped out?

Shri Bhagavati: I said 'No Dak' villages will be wiped out. A new scheme called the Panchayati Postal Scheme has been introduced on an experimental basis in Supa area of Poona District with effect from 2nd October, 1963.

Upgrading of more Branch and E.D. sub-offices into Departmental sub-offices, increasing, the number of mobile post offices, and replacement of Runners' lines by various expeditious modes of conveyance of mails, are some of the measures which have been taken for improvement of mail and delivery services. The Department has tried to strengthen supervision and taken such measures as test checks to guard against misdirection, wrong or non-delivery of mails, etc. Public complaints in such matters are always enquired into and proper remedial measures are taken. In the year 1963, 2,85,817 complaints of this nature were received. Action has been taken on 75,121 out of them.

Savings Bank facilities have been extended considerably. By the end of the third Plan, all the branch post offices at the headquarters of Panchayats, National Extension Service Blocks and Community Development areas as on April, 1961 would be provided with Savings Bank facilities.

Hon. Members referred to fraud cases. I can tell them that the percentage of fraud cases is very nominal. In 1961-62 the total number of money orders was 850 crores valued at Rs. 386 crores. Out of that, the number of fraud cases was only 407 valued at Rs. 1.97 lakhs, the percentage being 0.5 per cent. This does not, however, mean that we should slacken our vigilance.

The Postal Research Centre has been established in October, 1962. The Centre has initiated several schemes for the modernisation of the postal services. Among the major schemes initiated may be mentioned the successful installation of the conveyor system at the Air. Sorting Office at Safdarjung Airport, Delhi, for handling of mails with a view to relieving the postal staff of fatiguing work, introduction of slot machines for vending postal stationery counter-machines to expedite booking of parcels and coin changers to expedite the issue of change to the public.

Now, Sir, I want to submit that in the field of tele-communication also, rapid progress has been made. There were only 1,68,400 telephones in this country at the beginning of the First Plan. The number has gone up to 6,48,789 inclusive of public call offices and licensed system by the end of 1963. The total number of telephones in India at the end of the Third Plan will be about 8 lakhs. The Third Plan provides for 2,50,000 telephones and 1,200 exchanges. We have installed 1,83,840 telephones and opened 592 new exchanges. Yet, on 31st December, 1963, I have to admit, there was a registered waiting list of 2.4 lakhs for telephones all over the country. The waiting list, however, does not reflect the potential demand for telephones. It is much more than that. To keep in pace with the growth of development in industrial and other sectors, we shall have to make a big plan for expansion in this field. I hope with the support given by hon. Members it will be possible for us to undertake a much bigger plan in the Fourth Plan period.

Whereas on the postal side, consolidation is our main task, on the tele-communication side, expansion and introduction of new methods are still the main need. The main difficulty in this respect is shortage of materials and stores. Due to limitation in financial and material resources, particularly foreign exchange difficulty, delay in acquisition of sites,

[Shri Bhagavati]

expansion programme could not be pushed through as quickly as desired. The position has, however, eased to some extent at present, as a result of imports of equipment that are being made under the I.D.A. Loan.

I can understand when people complain and feel annoyed because of delay in trunk calls. The Department is making its best efforts to improve the service. The average efficiency at present is 78 per cent. Out of this 22 per cent ineffectives, 12 per cent ineffectiveness is due to subscribers not being available and the remaining 10 per cent is due to circuits not being available. The only answer to this is laying of coaxial cables and introduction of subscriber dialling system. This will be a landmark in the history of telecommunication development in this country.

The plan for the coaxial system, micro-wave system and carriers is being carried out. In the Third Plan, 3650 miles coaxial cable routes, and 1855 miles micro-wave routes will be completed. This will make possible to introduce subscriber dialling between important cities all over the country—some by the end of the Third Plan and the rest in the Fourth Plan period.

714 long distance P.C.O.'s were opened during these years. During the Third Plan the policy is to provide P.C.O.'s in all administrative towns down to tehsil and sub-tehsil and other towns with a population of over 20,000. About 500 administrative towns remain to be at present. By the end of the Third Plan, with the exception of about 100 towns, all the rest are expected to be covered.

651 telegraph offices have been opened during the first three years of the Plan. The number of telegraph offices at the beginning of the First Plan was 3,592. It is 7690 by the end of 1963. The total telegraph traffic has been growing steadily from year to year. It was 24.65 million messages

in 1947-48. It is 40.65 million messages in 1962-63.

Under the present policy, telegraph offices are provided at district, sub-divisional, tehsil or equivalent headquarters. The P. & T. Board has recently decided to provide telegraph facilities at Block Development Headquarters and places having police stations under the charge of an officer not lower in rank than a Sub-Inspector subject to the accumulative loss for the whole Third Plan period being limited to Rs. 40 lakhs.

During the Third Plan, except about 100 such stations, all the others would have been provided. Most of the places with a population of over 5000 will be provided telegraph facilities by the end of the Plan subject to the condition that the annual loss is limited to Rs. 1000 per telegraph office and there is no telegraph office within 5 miles. 1,300 towns are yet to be covered on this basis. It is expected to complete the work within this Plan period.

Devnagari telegraph service was introduced in nine offices on 1st June, 1949. Now this service is available in 2,162 telegraph offices. There are at present about 15,000 operators, out of which 4,500 have been duly trained in Devnagari telegraphy. A programme for the training of a larger number of officials is under consideration.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Where are they trained?

Shri Bhagavati: In different places.

Occasionally discussion is raised about posting of telegrams. In 1962-63 only 1.03 per cent of the telegrams had to be posted. Steps have now been taken to improve the service. Laying of coaxial cables is expected to remove the difficulties of overhead lines which are always subjected to weather conditions. Copper wire-

theft is another cause of interruption. The value of copper wire theft on alignment in 1962-63 amounts to Rs. 12.51 lakhs. With a view to reduce the incidence of copper wire theft, action has been taken for replacement of copper wire by copper-weld wire.

Telex service is now available at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras. International Telex service has been introduced at Calcutta during 1963. India is now connected with 42 countries through direct telex connections with international net works. This service has become popular with the industries and business houses. It will divert some of the traffic from the public telegraph network to the telex network and improve the situation.

In all 22 new teleprinter exchanges will be working at the end of the Third Plan, as against the two exchanges working before the commencement of the Plan. Various Government and semi-government organisations as well as some private users like the Press, Oil companies, industries etc., would find a greater advantage in exclusive renting of point-to-point circuits. Already, there are on hand about 300 such demands for leased circuits. Most of these demands will be met by the end of the Third Plan.

There is a shortage of teleprinters. The programme of teleprinters at the Hindustan Teleprinters Ltd., Madras has been expanded. Up to 15th February, 1964, 819 teleprinters have been produced. Hindi teleprinters are also likely to be manufactured by the end of 1965.

India's Overseas Communication network consist of linking up with other countries with radio-telegraph, radio-telephone and radio-photo services. Direct radio-telegraph links have been established with 24 countries, direct radio-telephone services with 25 countries, and direct-radio-photo services with 8 countries. In

addition, radio-telephone and radio-photo services are also available via international network to many other countries of the world. The Overseas Communications Service has four gateway centres for the handling of international communications and they are: Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras.

For successful implementation of the programme of the Department and also to provide efficient service to the public, attention has been paid to two important aspects, viz., the manufacture and training. So far as indigenous production is concerned, I.T.I., three P & T workshops and the Tele-communication Research Centre have made their own contribution. The Tele-communication Research Centre has made good contribution in the field of design for indigenous manufacture and introduction of new services and of new techniques and intensive exploitation of the existing assets to provide extra-tele-communication facilities usefully and economically.

The Estimates Committee recommended that a quinquennial review of the research work done by the Tele-communication Research Centre may be undertaken by the P&T Department. This recommendation has been accepted by the Department. In the meantime, the members of the Committee on organisation of Scientific Research under the Chairmanship of Dr. H. J. Bhabha have visited the Tele-communication Research Centre once. They will continue their review.

The target for production in the P&T Workshops for 1963-64 has been fixed at Rs. 425 lakhs as against the outturn of Rs. 392 lakhs in the previous year. At the end of January 1964, production to the extent of Rs. 333.78 lakhs has been achieved. Production for the year 1964-64 has been tentatively fixed at 25 per cent more than the production target of 1963-64. In order to achieve more production in the P&T Workshops, the Workshops at Calcutta, Jabalpur

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and Bombay are being modernised with fast moving modern plant and machinery.

A reference was made by my hon. friend to the Audit Report in connection with these workshops. I would like to submit that the Audit Reports will have to be reviewed by the Public Accounts Committee. Then the Department will have a chance to place their viewpoint. So, it will be better for the members to discuss it afterwards.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: So, you are only putting off the evil day.

Shri Bhagavati: Production at ITI has gone up. The sales during 1963-64 is expected to be of the order of Rs. 910 lakhs, as against this the sales during 1962-63 was of the order of Rs. 778 lakhs and in 1961-62 the value of sales was Rs. 564.02 lakhs. The increase in the value of sales will, therefore, be about 17 per cent over the value of sales of 1962-64. It is expected that over and above what has been consumed in this country, the ITI will be in a position to export goods worth Rs. 9 lakhs to Nepal, Ceylon, Sudan, Egypt, Uganda and Kuwait.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I am sorry to interrupt the Minister. What is the position regarding the instrument called Priyadarsini which they are manufacturing? Is it on a mass scale?

Shri Bhagavati: That is not the main or only instrument manufactured here.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I am referring to this particular instrument—Priyadarsini. Are they manufacturing it on a mass scale?

Shri Bhagavati: A decision has been taken to enter into a contract with the Bell Telephone Manufacturing Company, Belgium, subject to a satisfactory settlement of detailed terms for the purchase of crossbar

type of telephone switching equipment and also for the manufacture of the same at ITI. The hon. Member, **Dr. Ranen Sen**, has said that it was wrong to enter into this contract. As the hon. Minister will deal with it, I will not go into it in detail. I will only say that the World Bank, the Planning Commission, the Ministry of Industries, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of External Affairs and the Cabinet Sub-Committee have all gone through this question, they have carefully considered all the aspects and then come to this decision.

The Department has to make its own arrangement for imparting specialised training to its employees at various levels.

As regards the training of personnel in the field of telecommunication all such personnel is given training before appointment. There are at present Telecommunication Training Centres at Jabalpur, Trivandrum, Calcutta, Ambala, Madras, Nasik, Jaipur, Jammu, Lucknow, Patna, Nagpur, Kakinada, Bangalore and Ahmedabad. In addition, a number of training classes exist in each circle for training of certain cadres. These are gradually being re-organised in the form of training centres in each circle. To keep knowledge of the personnel abreast of the technical advancement in the telecommunication technique, special and refresher courses are arranged. It will be necessary to take some advance action in the matter of training to the required number of staff for carrying out our enlarged Plan subsequently.

In the postal side, training facilities exist in the two residential training centres at Saharanpur and Baroda. These two centres cater to the training needs of Northern, Western and Central Circles. Regarding other Circles, training needs are met by various non-residential training classes. It is proposed to have residential training centres for the Southern and Eastern zones.

During the last two years the demands of the P&T Department for defence purposes and high priority requirements has been enormous. This has as a result of this has increased very much. Two 12 Channel Telephone system, twelve 8 Channel and 3 Channel have been completed within the shortest possible time. Five 8 Channel system will be ready by 31st March, 1964. 66 V.F.T. Channels have also been added. It is gratifying and praiseworthy that the officers and the employees of the P&T Department rose to the occasion and did their best to meet the demand.

The problem of inadequacy of departmental buildings for post offices or RMS offices, to which a reference was made by hon. Members, is really a big one. I agree with them that the building position is not at all satisfactory. Of the 11,160 departmental post offices, 1,714 are only located in departmental buildings. It has been decided that as far as possible it would be preferable to have departmental buildings for post offices. Various measures have been taken up or contemplated to expedite the process of building projects. Since the commencement of the Third Plan up to 31st December, 1963, 63 new buildings for post offices and RMS operative offices have been constructed. Also, six departmental buildings have been reconstructed and 119 departmental buildings have been extended. Besides, 98 buildings are under construction. During the first two years of the Third Plan 28 new Exchange buildings have been built and 5 extended.

The department is fully alive to the fact that the efficiency of the staff depends to a large extent in the atmosphere of the place of work and residence. Keeping that in view, we have not only to provide adequate accommodation for office purpose, but we have also to provide residential accommodation to employees. The present Minister as well as the pre-

vious Minister have, therefore, given special emphasis on raising the tempo of construction work. I will inform the hon. Members that the P&T Board and the officers are also equally anxious to build as many houses as possible. With the formation of the Civil Construction Wing under this department from 1st July 1963, improvement in the progress of building work has been noticed. The tempo of construction has continued to increase.

It will be seen from the fact that during the current year it is expected to spend about Rs. 3 crores on office and residential buildings out of which about Rs. 1 crore will be for housing the employees. The expenditure of Rs. 3 crores compares favourably with an expenditure of Rs. 1.55 crores in 1961-62 and Rs. 2.45 crores in 1962-63.

1,400 quarters were provided during the first two years of the Third Plan. During the current year it is expected that 1,000 units will be ready for occupation. The targets fixed for 1964-65 is 1,200. At the end of the Third Plan it is expected that a total of 13,500 quarters would be available for the staff all over the country. But this would account barely 5 per cent of the staff. Apart from the usual building grant, the balance in the P & T Development Fund can be utilised to meet expenditure on staff quarter building projects. I can tell the hon. Members that subject to availability of resources we propose to have a bigger plan to provide residential quarters to the P & T staff. A departmental committee with the Secretary as Chairman has been formed to review the progress made and to expedite the construction work.

Staff amenities, i.e., canteens, recreation club rooms etc. have been provided in 207 cases. The Department has proposed to extend its scheme of departmental dispensaries for P & T staff and their families to all stations where the number of people employed is 1,000 or more. In-

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pursuance of this policy, nine dispensaries have so far been sanctioned out of which seven have started functioning.

134 co-operative credit societies and about 35 co-operative consumer stores organised and run by the P & T employees at different places in the country have been functioning well in different centres. The recommendations of the Study Group, set up by the Community Development Ministry, to help these societies are under consideration. I hope, a decision will be taken as soon as possible.

It is proposed to set up nine new Holiday Homes in addition to the five already existing at suitable stations for the benefit of P & T employees and their family members so as to provide

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): Have you considered Dalhousie for a Holiday Home?

Shri Bhagavati: For the employees so that they can go there for recreation . . . so as to provide at least one Holiday Home in each P & T Circle excluding Delhi.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Will they get free lodging and boarding?

Shri Bhagavati: Not free. Lodging is free.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It should be a holiday.

Shri Bhagavati: The financial implication will be Rs. 31,500 non-recurring and Rs. 32,400 recurring per annum.

In pursuance of the Pay Commission's recommendation on canteen facilities to Government servants, the new scheme of financial assistance to the canteens and tiffin rooms has been introduced. Necessary orders have been issued this year.

Scholarships are also given to the children of P. & T. employees from the P. & T Welfare Fund. Funds ranging from Rs. 15 to Rs. are given. The total amount spent in 1963 was about Rs. 1 lakh.

In pursuance of the Central Pay Commission's recommendations, a new scheme of overtime allowance has been introduced for the staff working in the Department, with effect from 1st March, 1964.

Shri D. C. Sharma: But they are not satisfied with it.

Shri Bhagavati: About 1 lakh P & T employees who were not hitherto eligible to overtime allowance will be benefited by the new scheme. The scheme also provides for grant of overtime allowance at higher rates for work performed on Sundays, weekly offdays and holidays.

I would like to say in this connection that Dr. Ranen Sen said that this dearness allowance was paid before the 31st March, 1964 so that the employees are required to pay compulsory deposit. I should like to tell him that it was up to the individual officers or the officer's establishment to draw and disburse the amount either in 1963-64 or in 1964-65 as was convenient and possible for them. Incidence of income-tax and compulsory deposit will follow the law and the procedure governing the same.

The Department keeps itself informed with the public views, complaints and suggestions through the P. & T. Advisory Committees at Circle and Divisional level and Telephone Advisory Committees at different stations. In the Informal Regional Consultative Committee meetings with hon. Members of Parliament, detailed discussions take place. Discussions in these meetings have proved to be very helpful. The Central P. & T. Advisory Council is another forum where the

representatives of the State Governments, some Ministries of the Government of India and the public meet and discuss matters relating to the P. & T. Its second meeting was held on the 22nd and 23rd November, 1963.

The total staff of the P. & T. Department was 427,029 including 157,876 Extra Departmental employees and 2,134 Gazetted officers. It is gratifying that good labour relations have been maintained with the unions and the employees. The meetings with the union representatives are held at different levels at regular intervals. They have proved to be very useful media to know the problems of the employees and thrash out such issues as may be raised. Apart from the meeting at Circle levels, in 1963, 8 formal meetings were held at the Centre with the Federation of P. & T. Employees Union, inclusive of 5 meetings which the DG held with the National Federation of the P. & T. Employees and its nine affiliated unions.

With a view to acquainting the public with the correct use of the P. & T. services, a Publicity Cell has been set up in the P. & T. Directorate. The Cell has taken up a number of measures in this direction. "Correct addressing of mails" was this year's theme for publicity. As you know, Sir, incorrect addressing is one of the causes of delayed delivery of mails, wrong and misdirection of mails and so on.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: There are many other causes also.

Shri Bhagavati: Some other points have been raised by hon. Members. I can tell them that all the suggestions will be taken into consideration and the hon. Minister will reply to all the important matters.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Warrior.

Shri Warrior (Trichur): Shall I be given a chance tomorrow?

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Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He will have to take the chance. I cannot promise.

Shri Warrior: I thought, Shri Banerjee was going to be given the chance today; or else I can begin.

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): Give him time tomorrow.

Shri Warrior: I will take the chance tomorrow.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Banerjee.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Surely, Shri Banerjee must have quorum.

Shri Ranga: Shri Banerjee is like our Shri Yashpal Singh.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no quorum?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: No; there are only 41 or so.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The bell is being rung . . . Now there is quorum. Shri Banerjee.

Shrimati Lakshmikanthamma (Khammam): Nowhere in the history of Parliament in other countries do they press for quorum like this.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: This is in the Constitution. Amend the Constitution.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister and his Ministry for doing some very good work though he is not free from criticism. I would like to mention certain things so that there will be more efficiency and rectification of mistakes.

My hon. friend, Dr. Ranen Sen, has mentioned something about the functioning of the P. & T. Board. We were very happy when the P. & T. Board was formed, but I remember in this House my hon. friend, Shri Harish

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

Chandra Mathur gave a note of caution that the P. & T. Board should not follow the Railway Board *in toto*; any defect in the Railway Board should not creep in the P. & T. Board; rather, they should have their own policy so that a better functioning is expected of them.

What do we find in the functioning of the Board? Without imputing any motive to any member or members, I must say that in certain cases posts are created to suit the convenience of some members. Some extension is denied to people only because some other member is interested in getting that post. Posts are created and not filled up because the person who is interested in that post is not available. The Member (Administration) who should be mainly responsible for the staff does not have any responsibility as the other members would not part with their zamindari, I should say, or with their functions. It is not proper for me also to say something more about the members of the Board. I have the greatest regard for them but I would only say that they should function properly. It is for the Government to decide the policies which should be translated into action by the members of the Board.

Then, I come to the question of efficiency. It seems that no one is interested in efficient functioning of the Department. I do not say for a moment that the employees and the officers are inefficient. They are efficient. But the collective efficiency which is expected from them is missing somewhere, with the result that there is a fast deterioration in the efficiency of the P. & T. Department. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken to see that this Department remains efficient and becomes more efficient. There are certain things which have to be looked into before the efficiency is improved and we can have better efficiency.

My hon friend Dr. Ranen Sen had mentioned about the contract with Bell

Co. While replying to the short notice question the other day, in one breath, the hon. Minister said that this particular company which was a subsidiary of another American firm was not involved in any espionage case in Tunisia. But, again when he was replying to supplementary questions, he admitted that there was some charge against that particular firm; and the same firm had been accused of subversive activities in another country. I would like to know why a contract is being entered into with that very firm. This is some thing which I am not able to understand. It is high time that it should be properly reviewed and it should be seen whether that company should be given any contract.

In our country, we are always afraid of espionage activities both by the Chinese spies and by the Pakistani spies. Should we indulge in something which would give a further chance for espionage or spying in our country? I do not want to impute any motives to this particular company, but there might be chances for such activity. Their record clearly shows that they were blacklisted by that country and they got compensation only and nothing else. The contract was cancelled and they got only compensation. And yet, we are so much enamoured of this particular company that we are giving them this contract. I would earnestly request the hon. Minister and the members of the P. & T. Board to see that it should be properly reviewed; I do not say that it should be cancelled, but it should be reviewed and the matter should be considered whether this is at all necessary.

Then, I may come to the question of the losses that would be involved as a result of that deal. About Rs. 50 lakhs worth of foreign exchange will be needed for 48,000 telephones because of this contract. 25 per cent of the cost would be accounted for by depreciation, and it will come to this that there will be a constant loss. Who is responsible for this loss? There

is no doubt that we are short of telephones and there are thousands of applications pending for telephones, either under the OYT scheme or any other scheme, and we want the telephones to be provided. But we should see that there is no recurring loss because of certain defective planning or lack of planning.

Then, I come to the question of inadequate staff. Wherever I go as the president of a particular union or a circle union, whether it be Kanpur, Jabbalpur or Nagpur or any other place, I find that there is inadequate staff. Every time we write a letter to the postmaster-general, we are told that every step is being taken to provide adequate staff, but it is never provided. The volume of work in the P.&T. Board has abnormally increased, and thanks to the employees who even after this strenuous work are working efficiently. I take my hat off to them for their efficient functioning. But they should be provided with adequate staff. I remember that in Kanpur, I had given a detailed note to the postmaster-general about this matter and I had requested him that the staff should be augmented, and I am still to see more staff there. It is not a question of the Department being over-staffed, but at least the under-staffing must come to an end.

Many points have been mentioned about the RMS workers. There are two problems which are agitating the minds of the RMS workers. One is inadequate outstation allowances. These outstation allowances were fixed at a time when the cost of living was very much lower, that is, in 1948 or 1949—I do not remember the exact year—when the prices had not risen to the present level. Today, when the prices have gone up to the present level and the cost of living has gone up beyond our comprehension, it should be reviewed. There was a promise that the outstation allowance would be reviewed, but unfortunately it has not been done so far.

I would request the hon. Minister that immediate steps should be taken to review these outstation allowances.

Then, there is the question of the increment test for the sorters. A sorter might have completed 20 or 30 years of service, and yet in order to get Rs. 4 as increment, he has to appear for a test called the increment test. It is not a test for promotion but an increment test. Merely to get an increment of Rs. 4, he has to appear for a test. After all, is he not efficient? He has spent the best portion of his life in the RMS, but even after 20 years of faithful, loyal and efficient service, he has got to appear for a test. I would request that the increment test must be abolished immediately because it is working as a disincentive to the RMS sorters.

Then, I would say a word about the linemen staff. During the Chinese aggression, these linemen had worked everywhere beyond our imagination. They had worked even in the highest places in the country risking their life and leaving their families without any separation allowance whatsoever, and they had rendered a miraculous service for the sake of the nation. And yet their demand is not being conceded. It has been proved beyond doubt that these linemen are doing a skilled job. Yet, they have not been categorised as skilled workers. This is really a sad commentary on the categorisation committee or on the various recommendations of the Pay Commission. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly see that these linemen are categorised as skilled workers.

I would say a word also about the daily allowance that is given to them. When they stay somewhere beyond 24 or 48 hours, they should be given more daily allowances. I am sure that is a matter which is being considered by the P & T Board and I am sure that they will arrive at a decision very soon, but I request that the matter might be expedited.

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

In regard to dearness allowance, my hon. friend has already referred to this matter. What does this increase of Rs. 2 or 5 or 10 sanctioned recently by the Finance Minister reflect? If it is really neutralisation up to 125, then it should be paid from 1st November, 1961 and not from 1st July, 1963 as is being done which is absolutely wrong. The neutralisation should be done up to 135 actually. According to the Finance Minister, the figure is 134.8 while it is 138 according to us. So, the matter should be reviewed further.

Then, I would also submit that the compulsory deposit should be immediately paid back to the employees. They should not be compelled to deposit the compulsory deposit by incurring debts simply because the Finance Minister wants to see that this should be deposited though ultimately he wants to return it.

I am very happy that more and more of our sisters are getting employment. But I am surprised to read the following item in the journal called *Andhra Post*. There are two letters published there, one was written by one Shri-mati Lakshmi, clerk, Postal Superintendent's Office, Kurnool, to Shri Rahimuddin Ahmed, DPS, Hyderabad-1. This is the letter she wrote—this is all printed:

"My dear Ahmed,

I think you are doing well. Nothing special here. The other day that Union Secretary and his assistant have threatened me like anything and I told everything to my husband. My husband has given them a good whip."

Then she writes:

"Today we have received our result. Thank you very much".

It is the result of a particular examination. This letter was written on 6-3-63 from Kurnool. Our sister, Lakshmi, had written this in connection

with employment in the Savings Bank Incentive Scheme.

I never knew that there are Romeos in this department. There is a Romeo called Mr. Rahimuddin Ahmed, a senior officer. He had written a letter. He saw to it that Roll No. K 11....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This should first have been sent to the Minister. Names cannot be mentioned here like this.

Shri A. K. Sen: May I request the hon. Member to send this individual case to me so that I can look into it?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: There is no question of individuals.

Shri A. K. Sen: Names have been mentioned.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He should first have sent it to the Minister and if there was no proper answer, it could have been taken up here. It is not proper to raise this matter in this way. This is a very serious matter. He should not just read out such things from any paper.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: This is not from a newspaper. This is actually from a monthly journal of the Posts and Telegraphs employees which is circulated to the P & T Administration. I am really sorry if they cannot read these things there.

Shri Ranga: Why not mention the name of the Romeo?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it published by the Department?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It is published by the employees with the permission of the Department.

Shri A. K. Sen: It has always been the practice that those who are not present here are not referred to in this manner. If such things are mentioned, how can it be answered now?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I am not mentioning anything else.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am suggesting to the hon. Member to first send it to the Minister. If he does not get a proper reply, then it might be raised here.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It is not an individual grievance.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But there must be a proper procedure and time to raise it.

He should not have mentioned names. He mentioned the name of a lady and also the other name.

Shri Ranga: That is all right. She has herself given it.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I have got the original letter here. If you will permit me, I will place it on the Table.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not necessary. I am not concerned.

Shri A. K. Sen: There is no case which is forwarded to me which I do not inquire into immediately, particularly when it comes from Members of Parliament. But as I said, it is a healthy practice that we have followed not to make such references to those who are not present here. What is the difficulty in sending it to me?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I am not against Romeos. I am not devoid of romanticism.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: His time is up.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I was interrupted.

I will just read a paragraph and finish it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He need not. Let him please wind up. He has mentioned names. Sufficient mischief has already been done.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What is the mischief, Sir? You are the custodian of the rights of Members. Kindly hear me.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Every Member should realise his obligation.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I am not mentioning anything about this particular officer, in seeing that she passed the examination. She has passed the examination. Then he writes:

"Now, I have to see how far the subsequent promises made in your last four letters written after my last visit to KNL will be kept up and the sincerity on your part proved".

Serious action should be taken against this officer who has got the guts to write this letter. A photostat copy has been taken of it. I have got the original letter also. As I said, serious action should be taken. Otherwise, our sisters who are being employed, will be faced with a situation . . .

An Hon. Member: She may be a Juliet.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I do not know.

There are thousands and thousands of our sisters who are working in these departments.

This Romeo should be sent to England. He should not be kept in India. I again request that this should be inquired into properly and serious action should be taken. I shall pass this on to the hon. Minister. I have got the original letter written by this officer concerned.

Shri A. K. Sen: Action has already been taken.

Shri B. K. Das (Contai): The Deputy Minister, speaking on many points, raised during the discussion, threw some light on different activities of this Department.

[Shri B. K. Das]

It is gratifying to note that this Department has been making good progress in its many-sided activities.

16.55 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

Regarding the financial aspect, it is following the pattern of the railways and as in the railways, it has opened three funds to which appropriations are being made. Appropriations are being made to the Renewal Reserve Fund, the Development Fund and the Revenue Reserve Fund annually. From the coming year, the contribution to the Renewals Reserve Fund will be a charge on working expenses. Appropriations will continue to be made to the Development Fund and the Revenue Reserve Fund.

One hon. Member observed that there is not much need for the Revenue Reserve Fund. I agree that probably in a department like this, there is not much need for a Revenue Reserve Fund and the Rs. 5 crores appropriated so far to this Fund may be usefully utilised for augmenting the Development Fund. The Development Fund is to be utilised for staff quarters and other matters.

As the Estimates Committee has observed, there should be specific objects for which the Development Fund is used. I hope the scope of this Fund will be specified, for certain specific purposes and from time to time expenses for such purposes will be met from the fund.

I find that there is a decline of this fund of nearly Rs. 75 lakhs in the coming year in the budget. I do not find any reason for it. In 1963-64, there was an appropriation of Rs. 2.50 crores. But in the budget, I find it will be Rs. 1.75 crores. I think this decline is unjustified and this fund should be augmented.

We find that the Development Fund was started in 1960-61 with Rs. 1 lakh. During 1961-62 and 1962-63, there was

no appropriation to this fund. Only in 1963-64, there was appropriation of Rs. 250 lakhs, and in the budget there will be an appropriation of Rs. 175 lakhs.

The Estimates Committee has observed that the extent of contribution to be made to the Revenue Reserve fund may be so fixed that it may enable the department to meet replacement cost from time to time. I think this is being taken care of. I do not find in the Report if this has been followed, but it is only mentioned that proper notice has been taken of this remark.

Mr. Speaker: Here we stop and take up the calling Attention Notice.

17 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Judgment of Punjab High Court re: Rehabilitation Ministry's interference in administration of justice.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Barrackpore): In the statement which has been placed before us, the hon. Minister of Rehabilitation has said that the Punjab High Court based its finding of bias on two circumstances:

- (1) that the Regional Settlement Commissioner had issued secret instructions on the 9th September, 1960, that the sale certificate should not be issued, and
- (2) that he had forwarded a draft show-cause notice from the Deputy Chief Settlement Commissioner and directed the Managing Officer, Hyderabad, that the notice should be issued by him after signing it and that an order must be passed on the 14th October, 1960."