

[Shri Hathi]

Rules, 1965, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 327 dated 6th March, 1965.

(ii) The Indian Civil Service Provident Fund (Amendment) Rules, 1965, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 328 dated the 6th March, 1965.

(iii) The Indian Civil Service (Non-European Members) Provident Fund (Amendment) Rules, 1965, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 329 dated the 6th March, 1965.

(iv) The Secretary of State's Services (General Provident Fund) Amendment Rules, 1965, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 330 dated the 6th March, 1965.

[Placed in Library, see No. LT-4105/65].

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
(EXEMPTION FROM CONSULTATION)  
AMENDMENT REGULATIONS

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri L. N. Mishra):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Union Public Service Commission (Exemption from Consultation) Amendment Regulations, 1965, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 431 dated the 20th March, 1965, under clause (5) of article 320 of the Constitution, together with an explanatory note.

[Placed in Library, see No. LT-4106/65].

12:32 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SIXTY-FIRST REPORT

**Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao (Shimoga):** I beg to present the Sixty-

first Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12:32½ hrs.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

**श्री किशन पटनायक (सम्बलपुर) :** श्रीमन्, मैं केंद्रीय उच्चादन शुल्क तथा नमक अधिनियम, 1944, और उसके अधीन बनाये गये नियमों के सम्बन्ध में एक याचिका देने वाले द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित दो याचिकायें उपस्थापित करता हूँ।

12:32½ hrs.

UNION TERRITORIES (DIRECT ELECTION TO THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE) BILL\*

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Hathi):** On behalf of Shri Nanda, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for direct election in certain Union territories for filling the seats allotted to them in the House of the People and for matters connected therewith.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill provide for direct election in certain Union territories for filling the seats allotted to them in the House of the People and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

**Shri Hathi:** I introduce the Bill.

12:33 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS†—contd.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now take up discussion and voting on

\*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 31-3-65.

†Moved with the recommendation of the President.

Demand Nos. 101 to 105, 148 and 149 relating to the Department of Communications for which 4 hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members desirous of moving their cut motions may send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating which of the cut motions they would like to move.

**DEMAND No. 101—DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS**

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,88,000 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, 1966, in respect of ‘Department of Communications’.”

**DEMAND No. 102—OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE**

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,44,46,000 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, 1966, in respect of ‘Overseas Communications Service’.”

**DEMAND No. 103—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (WORKING)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,16,95,23,000 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, 1966, in respect of ‘Posts and Telegraphs (Working Expenses)’.”

**DEMAND No. 104—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DIVIDEND TO GENERAL REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS TO RESERVE FUNDS**

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding

Rs. 8,62,96,000 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, 1966, in respect of ‘Posts and Telegraphs Dividend to General Revenues and Appropriations to Reserve Funds’.”

**DEMAND No. 105—OTHER REVENUE EXPENDITURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS**

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,65,000 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, 1966, in respect of ‘Other Revenue Expenditure of the Department of Communications’.”

**DEMAND No. 148—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 45,09,17,000 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, 1966, in respect of ‘Capital Outlay on Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)’.”

**DEMAND No. 149—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS**

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,33,000 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, 1966, in respect of ‘Other Capital Outlay of the Department of Communications’.”

The Demands are now before the House.

Shri Daji (Indore): The Report says that the activities of the Department have been growing. With the completion of the Third Plan and the beginning of the Fourth Plan, the work of the department is bound to increase many times. But, though the department has increased its activities, one is aware of the various complaints against the department, so that the position today is that neither the consumers, nor those who work in the department, are fully satisfied.

The most important reason for this state of affairs is that the P & T Board, which heads the Department, is a truncated board, and nothing can be expected of the P & T services unless we start reorganising the Board and making it a real Board. Some one has caustically remarked that the P, & T. Board is a board only in the sense of a black board on which the names of the Directors are written. It is hardly a Board. It is only a forwarding agency to forward things to the Home Ministry and the Finance Ministry.

I may recall that one of the dynamic acts of the Prime Minister, who was then Minister of Communications, was to suggest the formation of an autonomous P. & T. Board. It was on the initiative of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri that this Board was formed subsequently in 1959. Shri Shastri said in Parliament on 28-3-1958:

"The Department cannot work if it is hedged in by such rules and stringent financial controls that it is not able to move forward or take initiative."

This was the basis on which the Board was formed, and yet we find that the Board has not been vested with the powers of the Railway Board. It is a hybrid. Really speaking, one does not know what the P & T. Board is. In the old days of Negro slave ownership in USA, there were many categories of Negroes. One

born of a White father and a black mother was a mulatto. One born of a White father and a mixed mother was a Giraffe. And then there was the pure Negro. Similarly, this is neither a department of the Government, nor an autonomous Board. This is something in between, a hybrid. One does not know what actually it is, who the parents of this Board are.

The most important point is that this Board has no financial and administrative powers. I will give some examples. In such a small matter as condoning the break in service of an employee, it has to refer the matter to the Finance Ministry. In such a small matter as the reconstitution of a few cadres, or even on a technical question like manning the phonograph services or the standards for telephone switch board operators, the matter has to go to the Home Ministry, which is hardly qualified to decide on these technical matters, and yet we call it a Board. If the Board is going to be so cramped, we cannot show efficiency or tempo of activity. The initiative becomes cramped. The Finance Member of the Board does not take decisions in the Board. The decisions are tentative, and he takes them back to the Finance Ministry. If everything has to be referred to the Finance and Home Ministries, why have the luxury of having a Board at all? Therefore, if we want to serve the ever-growing population and serve our growing economy and make the P. & T. a real service to the people, it should be reorganised immediately. Full autonomy to the P. & T. Board on the lines of the Railway Board is called for, and nothing short of that will satisfy us.

May I point out another anomaly? This Board was constituted in 1959. At that time the Finance Ministry had all powers over the other Ministries, but in 1962 the Ministry of Finance decentralised the functions and gave more autonomy to the Ministries regarding adjustment of expenditure within the allotted funds,

but even this autonomy was denied to the P. & T. Board. It was argued in 1962 that since the P. & T. Board was not a Ministry, this autonomy could not be given to it. And today the matter stands like this, that if the P. & T. had not had a Board, it would have had more autonomy than it is having presently with a Board.

It seems the Finance Ministry is like an old, jealous mother-in-law, very jealous of her powers, who would not part with the keys of the kitchen even when many daughters-in-law have come, even when she herself cannot prepare food in time. This jealous mother-in-law has to be told once and for all and very clearly that this sort of treatment of the P. & T. will not serve the interests of the country and that the P. & T. cannot function efficiently and deliver the goods.

**Shrimati Yashoda Reddy** (Kurnool): Father-in-law.

**Mr. Speaker:** If a gentleman speaks, he will speak of mother-in-law. If a lady speaks, she will speak of father-in-law!

**Shri Daji:** A mother-in-law ill-treats the ladies more than the gentlemen.

Another disturbing feature of the Report this year is that the Telecom services, which have every year showed a surplus—I will not use the word profit—have this year showed a deficit of Rs. 2 crores, whereas the postal service, with all its economy envelopes, inlands and far-off village post offices which are hardly economic, has shown a nice surplus. This is a state of affairs which should worry us. However, I may point out first of all that the deficit is not a real deficit. It is a trick of accountancy. I do not have the time to go into it; otherwise, I can prove conclusively that it is trick of accountancy, an adjustment between revenue and capital for various reasons. I am not satisfied with saying that this is not a real deficit. It is necessary that we should probe into the problem de-

per as to why the Telecom services, which are really the paying wing of P. & T. have not shown not only a surplus, but enough surplus. The first and foremost reason is that the entire administrative set up is improper, out-dated and inefficient. You have to have a new set up. Take the entire telecom services. Let me inform the House that while there is a deficit of Rs. 2 crores the outstandings are Rs. 3 crores, a new high record. That used to be Rs. 40 or 50 lakhs in the past years; they rose to one crore last year and this year the outstandings are three crores. Why? Because a new system of making bills was introduced against the advice given by the employees and the unions; they said that this system would cause bottlenecks but they were overruled and the new type was introduced. The result is that the outstandings are Rs. 3 crores. Bills are still to be sent out for Rs. 5 crores. Now, what do the bureaucrats say? They say that some more officers should be appointed and posts created and some incentives should be given. This is a clear example of bureaucratic wooden headedness. For dealing with T.A. Bills of Rs. 5,000 outstanding, they spent Rs. 2,000 in creating additional posts in Delhi itself. This is the way they want to tackle the problem and that is why surpluses cannot be shown in this concern or in any other concern, for that matter. Unfortunately, as in every other Ministry, for this Ministry the time is very short. What has been the increase in the official hierarchy compared to the increase in telephone services? The official staff had been bloated out of all proportion to the whole administrative set up; it is becoming bigger compared to the actual technical staff, the working staff which should be catered for. But in this category almost all places are short by 15-20 per cent. We are pained very much because of the dual capacity in which I am placed. On the one hand as a Member of Parliament we have to ventilate the grievances of the people and voice the complaints of the citizens that the services are not

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effective and efficient. On the other hand, I have also to point out the difficulties that the actual workers are facing in the discharge of their duties efficiently and properly. They are short of staff and material.

There is another example to show how wrong methods had been introduced. Sometime back the authorities decided that telephone meters would be read once in three months. Again the employees, doing their patriotic duty pointed out that this was a bad system. But they were not listened to. The result is this. In many telephone connections, the meters turned one full circle within three months and when reading was taken after three months, the needle pointed out only to a small fraction of the second or third new circle. When the employees point out such mistakes, some officers say to them: this is not the function of the employees to advise how to run the department; they should consider their own demands and settle their own demands. If the employees want to take a more constructive and dynamic attitude, they are not attended to or listened to. In this process, the department had been put to a loss of thousands or lakhs of rupees, because it cannot be seen whether the circle had been completed or a new circle had begun or not.

There is another example of the rejected stores. Recently, a particular item was purchased from one Mr. Amin Chand of Punjab. It was rejected by the Delhi office, as being not according to specifications. But it would be a great surprise to you that the same stock had been accepted by the Bombay office as being according to specifications. How this could be done is a matter which should be enquired into properly. The material supplied is certainly not according to specifications. But again pressure was put on the Delhi, not on the Bombay office to reject it as it is not according to specifications, but on the Delhi office to accept it. The Delhi office had again rejected

it yet the Bombay office had accepted it. About Rs. 40-50 lakhs of rejected stores are lying. I say this to show how curious the system is. First of all payment is to be made not by the department here, but by some other office. When the stores are rejected, they are auctioned at 40 per cent or 50 per cent. The same contractors purchase that stuff and pass it on again as fresh. These things go on. How can the telecom services become adequate if all the powers are not given to the PT Board? One office accepts what the other office rejects. I am referring to the case of the sockets.

Since we are talking about the telecom services and the deficit shown this year, it is pertinent to put a question to the department. What has happened to the telecom service contract with the Bell Company for multiple frequency system? Last time we had occasion to point out that the tender was wrongly accepted. The hon. Minister, Mr. Asoke Sen then said that the technical committee unanimously recommended that the tender of the Bell Company be accepted. I have in my possession a copy of the minutes. At that time too I had wanted to raise it. The information given to the Minister was not correct. The minutes show very clearly that the technical committee did not accept the Bell company's system unanimously. In fact that tender was rejected as a majority was against it. Yet one gentleman who was very keen to get it accepted tried through various channels. I have got the minutes which I can pass on to the hon. Minister as I have no time to read that. This House should give a second look to this affair. It is also very surprising that the PT Board was not consulted before this was accepted. It is this Board which runs this system, which uses this system; even then it is not consulted before tenders for such an important new system are accepted. The Board was not consulted because the gentleman was fully aware that it would not accept it and it was

opposed to it. By bylanes and other lanes this Bell Company's tender was accepted though it was costlier than the others. It was also pointed out by one member of the committee that the Bell Company was not experienced enough but he was overruled. Now, after one and half years, the Bell Company is yet unable to inform our postal authorities how the inter-communication between the old system and new system can take place.

Sir, I will take a little more time. When this system is introduced it will cost Rs. 40 more per telephone. I would like to know how the department is going to meet it. Will it be passed on to the consumer or will the department foot the bill of Rs. 1·20 crores? If that is so the telcom service cannot be improved.

Before I conclude there are one or two things about the position of the employees. Let me at the outset say that we are thankful to the helpful and constructive attitude adopted by the Minister and the Chairman of the PT Board regarding the demands of the staff. Still, there are certain glaring things. Do you know that the workers have been given quarters which cover only four per cent of the employees: this percentage is the lowest in the entire government machinery; even the audit employees get more number of quarters. Do you also know that in the Fourth Plan the department wanted Rs. 120 crores for quarters but only Rs. 15 crores had been given for the Fourth Plan and therefore at the end of that Plan the percentage will be lower than even now because only 15,000 more quarters will be constructed while the employees will increase by 25,000. There is then the perennial question of shortage of staff. You cannot work the department efficiently without adequate technical staff. Then, sometimes the officers get idea of new methods of work. The introduction of jeep for line

repairs was one such idea. Jeeps were introduced for linemen; but they were not used for the lineman's work but for taking the children of officers to school. Of course the linemen no longer have to take the officers children to school on bicycle but the jeep was not used for the specified purpose. The employees pointed out that jeeps could not be used in a country like India. It had been put forward in a meeting of the joint negotiating committee and the need for a change had been accepted but the implementation was held up for more than four months and we want to know what action is going to be taken. There is then the question of 25 thousand of casual workers. We do not want anything radical; all we want is that, as in the railways there is a rule, there must be a rule here also that after six months of service, they should be made permanent; that rule should be enforced. There is the question of the extradepartmental staff running into lakhs. What is their pay—Rs. 18, 20 or 30. How can you expect any work from them with such a small pay scale? This should be looked into.

Then there is the question of the Telegraph Enquiry Committee Report which was submitted in 1958. From 1958 to 1965, this report lies buried in the archives of the Department. Let us once and for all either accept it or amend it or have another committee. The question is pending, and the telegraph employees are very agitated about it. It is time that the Department works expeditiously in the matter before the discontent of the employees bursts out in a different way.

Similarly, there is the question of settling the day-to-day problems. Why should there be difficulty in this matter? I say that an administration that is not capable of settling the day-to-day problems of the staff is incapable of ensuring an efficient and

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economic service to the nation. What I say is this. I give this praise to the hon. Minister because, in the course of negotiations at one of the conferences, he said he has faith in the capacity and patriotic spirit of the workers. We say yes, and we will live up to that faith, but then, give us certain wherewithals to work and provide us at least with the minimum facilities.

For instance, in a city like Delhi, if you can stand at the urinal provided in the Eastern Court Post Office and not jump away within two seconds, I will call you a brave man; Even proper urinals cannot be provided; dormitories cannot be provided. I request the authorities to take at least a human attitude to the problems facing the employees. (*Interruption*).

**Shri Parashar** (Shivpuri): It is not here alone; it is a condition all over the world.

**Shri Daji**: I have not trotted all over the world as that hon. Member has. What is very important is this: a parliamentary committee must immediately be appointed to go into this question. It has been done in other countries. It is called for in this country; it should examine the functions, the organisation and the requirements of the department, correlating them with the advance techniques and possibilities and needs of the country. Such a parliamentary committee should go into all these questions and come to a decision. As has been said by our late Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, it is not enough if we keep pace by copying others—as is happening in most of the Government departments here—and what is required is, we should make advance, based on our own self. And for this reason, a parliamentary committee should be appointed to examine all these questions; that is immediately necessary, as we have not had a thorough exam-

ination of the working of the Posts and Telegraphs Department for a very long time.

**Shri Solanki** (Kaira): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I proceed to make my remarks, I would first like to make a submission that the posts and telegraphs department, after being separated from the Transport Ministry, has again been linked up with the Department of Parliamentary Affairs. I would wish that a separate Ministry should be established for posts and telegraphs, and the Department of Parliamentary Affairs should also form a separate Ministry. One Ministry doing the job for two different departments would lead to complications, and there are more and more problems arising out of the combination of Ministries. (*Interruption*).

**Mr. Speaker**: Order, order.

**Shri Solanki**: Already, my hon. friend Shri Daji pointed out that the Posts and Telegraphs Board was established after the statement made by the then Minister of Communications, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, in 1958; he said that unless the Board was set up just as the Railway Board, the posts and telegraphs department will not make any progress. After he said that, after two years, the Posts and Telegraphs Board was set up. But in fact, during all these years, nearly five to six years since the Board was set up, its functions have always been governed by the Ministry of Finance and the Home Ministry, as Shri Daji pointed out, so much so that while the posts and telegraphs department is capable of giving good revenue to the country, just as the railways are doing, it is handicapped by the controls put on the Board by the Finance and the Home Ministries. Therefore, the entire independence of this Board has been taken away. This year, we find from the Annual Report and the budget that the department is making just enough to meet its demands.

The revenue this year was Rs. 141 crores, but again, if we look into the accounts, there were many arrears in the Telephone department which could not be collected from the subscribers. Several demand notices were issued, but still, in thousands of cases these arrear notices are pending and no collections have been made. I find that this mistake was made by the Finance Ministry, and the posts and telegraphs department has to suffer consequently. This is one of the glaring examples where, though the posts and telegraphs department could have made good the lapses and set right its problems and collected the revenue, because there was another Ministry interfering in this department, these arrears were not being collected. We find thus that the income and expenditure are on the same level. This could have been avoided easily by handling independently the problems of the posts and telegraphs department.

Secondly, I want to point out that in the department of motor mail service, there are various complaints which I have received. I would like the hon. Minister to look into these complaints. The first point is, in the month of May, 1963, the superintendent of sorting and airmail division, Shri Kailash Prakash, put up a scheme before the posts and telegraphs department. This scheme was aimed at saving a sum of Rs. 1,61,000 for the department. Several routes are carved out in Delhi along which the mail vans are running. The superintendent of the sorting division put up the scheme by which certain routes could have been easily cut down. If those routes, which were not very important, could be cut down, there would have been a saving of a distance of 700 miles per day, and by saving a distance of 700 miles per day, there would also be a saving of 10 vans which were being used. Thus, by a saving of these 10 vans and a distance of 700 miles per day, a saving of Rs. 1,61,032 could have been effected every year. This

was a very useful scheme which could have saved so much of money and material for the department. I do not know what happened to that scheme. The gentleman who put up this scheme is now no longer serving in this department and the scheme was never pursued afterwards. I would still suggest that if such economies can be made, we should make an endeavour to make such economies and thus save a lot of money in the department.

There are certain routes on the motor mail service where big cars are used which are not of any use on certain narrow streets on certain routes. Smaller cars could be used wherever possible, and if they are used, we could save petrol and mobile oil and also save monthly to the tune of Rs. 21,66,468 annually. If we could use these smaller cars on routes which are very narrow and where the streets are congested, we could save money on petrol and oil. But then there is some trouble, namely, in this technical department of motor mail service, the officials are not technical-minded, or, they do not seek the advice on technical grounds. If they seek advice, or, if they meet together and discuss these points, this economy could be achieved. Unfortunately, bureaucracy prevails in this department. They think that it is too low to ask certain officials or the people who are working on the vans, and so advice is not sought, and therefore these expenses are incurred.

Thirdly, I come to a very important point to which I want immediate attention of the Ministry to be devoted. This is a case where a serious accident could have occurred near the technical institute near the Kashmiri Gate General Post Office. A petrol pump is constructed on the middle of the road. Normally, we see petrol pumps on the side of the road, at least about 10 yards away from the road, but here is an example where it is constructed right in the middle of the road. I do not know what to call this. What is more, the petrol



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tank also is on the road. When the vans are passing—the vans are full of dak and other valuable materials—and when pressure is created, day by day, gradually, some gas may be produced and accumulated, and finally an explosion could take place there, causing serious damage to life and property. Nobody has looked into this matter. Several times the departmental staff drew the attention of the senior officers to this, but the negligence continues, resulting in an accident on 24th of this month, when a sweeper by the name of Ramchandra was hurt and he is in the Irwin Hospital. This was a minor accident, but many major accidents can take place by this stupidity. So, this petrol pump which is constructed in the middle of the road should be removed.

13 hrs.

Many tyres of mail vans get worn out and new tyres are asked for. These new tyres are given to the department, but unfortunately they are not used there. Again second-hand tyres are used. I do not know where the new tyres go. Again after a few months a demand is made and new tyres are given. Some sort of mischief is being played there which should be looked into.

There was another point to which I want to draw attention. There was a P & T. van DLD 2510. Certain spare parts out of this car were replaced into one car NDL 1084, which belongs to a person working in the P. & T. Department. I do not know the name of the person, but I know the number of the car. Spare parts were replaced into his personal car, thereby making the government van useless. Now it is lying in the garage. This particular incident has cost the P. & T. Rs. 10,000. There are many other incidents where there is change of spare parts. They are replaced in such a way that they do not last long; after 3 to 4 months,

they become useless and this is causing a huge expenditure to the government.

When the postal vans are bought, they have very expensive mirrors used to sight vehicles coming at the back. They are replaced by cheaper mirrors, which do not give a long service. Due to this, nearly 44 accidents have taken place in the city of Delhi so far. I hope the Minister will look into this also. These accidents have cost the P. & T. department nearly Rs. 50,000.

When such accidents take place, the staff of the P. & T. department or the drivers of those vans are held responsible. When they have to appear before the courts, the ministry does not give them permission. The accident takes place because of the fault of the department. If he is not granted leave to appear before the court, he has to do it at his own risk. I know one incident where, the driver saved nearly Rs. 1 lakh to the Government by appearing and taking the blame on himself. When he returned to the department he was suspended, instead of being congratulated. Later on, he was given a temporary job, but he has not received the allowances for the period of his suspension. I have got the papers of this case which I shall pass on to the minister, so that he can look into them.

**Mr. Speaker:** The minister cannot be expected to be ready with each and every individual case that might have happened in such a big department. Advance notice has to be given in such cases, so that the minister also might be ready and I might also know. Otherwise, there would be no answer to these things. He is going into such details about which I cannot expect the minister to give a suitable reply and the hon. member will complain that the reply has not been given.

**Shri Narendra Singh Mahida** (Anand): He may not be able to reply, but let him make enquiries.

**Mr. Speaker:** The debate remains unreplied then. Our rules do provide that if an individual case is to be mentioned, advance notice shall be given, so that the minister might be ready with the reply.

**Shri Solanki:** The reason for my giving the details is not to get a reply about individual cases, but to point out the general dissatisfaction prevalent in the department, which should be removed.

**Mr. Speaker:** That would be rather putting in a representation on behalf of one man who has been unjustly treated.

**Shri Solanki:** Not one man; there are other instances which I have given.

**Mr. Speaker:** They are different.

**Shri Solanki:** More efficiency is required in the telegraph services. Telephone service is a commercial service and in many countries like Japan, commercialisation has brought in a lot of revenue for the department. If we follow the same thing, we would also benefit. There is a huge demand for telephones in many industrial areas and even after repeated applications, that facility is not granted. Even minor extensions are not given in many cases. If they are granted and the telephone services are extended, I am sure the P&T department will benefit enormously and be able to make good the loss it may be suffering.

In my own constituency, in many small towns, exchanges are not working efficiently. In Kaira, which is the headquarters of the district, the telephone exchange takes 30 to 40 minutes to contact a very near town at a distance of 20 miles, whereas by road transport the town can be reached in 15 minutes. Several com-

plaints have been received in regard to this. I would request the ministry to look into it.

There is another instance. In a place called Mandal telephone exchanges were asked for and a certain amount of money was demanded from the local merchants. They sent a deputation to the local authorities in Ahmedabad. A certain compromise was arrived at. The telephone exchange has been granted, but while making long distance calls, there is trouble caused by the local telephone authorities, because a certain amount of money demanded by the local authorities was not given to them by the merchants. So, the merchants are not able to carry on their business through the telephone exchange peacefully. We put up this before the local authorities, but nothing has been done.

The zonal reorganisation scheme of the RMS was taken up with effect from 15-4-61. It seems the scheme has failed. Instead of getting more efficiency out of this scheme, there is more overlapping of departments and this is causing more problems for the RMS. I would request the ministry to look into this. If this scheme is not useful, they should scrap it altogether and make the department function as it was before.

Coming to the general conditions of third and fourth grade postal workers, they are given certain uniforms which are not durable and shabby. Sometimes they are not of the proper size and sometimes they are in technicolour. When they put on these uniforms, they do not look like postmen, but like cartoons. I pointed this out last year also. I do not understand why they are not given ordinary mill-made cloth given to the ministers' servants and to other people of the same grade elsewhere. Even the Railways give uniforms made of mill cloth to their Class III and Class IV servants. I wish the same kind of uniforms are

[Shri Solanki]

given to postal workers also. In that case the cloth would be durable, the uniforms would look decent and at least they can wear them with some pride. At present uniforms made of khadi cloth are given. The khadi cloth used is of a very cheap quality. I have nothing against khadi. If that khadi is of a better quality it would at least last longer and at least they would look decent. At present the departmental staff wearing these khadi uniforms look really shabby. The cloth is also not durable. Therefore, there is dissatisfaction among the staff. I wish that this is looked into.

The G.P.O. Delhi is in a very sorry state of affairs. Day before yesterday, looking into the papers, I read that the hon. Minister's furniture costs nearly Rs. 38,600. I doubt whether furniture for the same amount is there in the G.P.O. Delhi. If it is not there I have no grievance, but whatever furniture is there should be at least properly repaired. Even the chairs and tables in the G.P.O. are in a very bad state of repair. They should be replaced. After all, it is the G.P.O. of Delhi. It should have better furniture, better facilities and there should be a sense of satisfaction among the staff that they are working in a better place with better facilities. Sir, this should be done.

Another thing I would like to suggest is, when the strikes of 1956—1960 took place, there was a talk of forming a Whitley Council in our country on the same level as in Britain. For some reason or the other this has been postponed and it has never been formed. If this Council had been in existence during those years, I am sure the strikes would never have occurred. Even now, after this Council comes to be established, there would be mutual co-ordination between the employees and Government and there would be no problems which cannot be solved by

mutual understanding. Therefore, this question of the Whitley Council is very important for the benefit of the Department and for the Government as a whole.

There is the question of overtime allowance. On many public holidays the postal staff have to work. When they work on these holidays they are not given any extra allowance. They should be given some extra allowance for the holidays on which they come to work or, if the allowance cannot be given, they should be allowed to observe these public holidays because they generally put in more work than the staff in other departments. They put in a work of nearly 8 hours 40 minutes. Even during nights they put in the same amount of work for which they do not get any extra payment or allowance. I want the Ministry to consider this. Either they should be given extra allowance or they should be allowed to observe the holidays that others observe.

My hon. friend, Shri Daji spoke about living quarters. Living quarters are very very few in number compared to the Railways. There they have nearly 35 per cent. living quarters whereas the Posts and Telegraphs Department does not even have 4 per cent. With the existing staff of 2.5 lakhs plus the casual workers numbering about 1.5 lakhs, we have only about 18000 quarters which is a very small number. A figure of Rs. 120 crores was included in the Fourth Plan for new quarters, but that has been revised to Rs. 15 crores. The Minister should make full attempts to get more money granted and more quarters should be built for the staff.

On the whole, Sir, the Posts and Telegraphs Department can do the same job as the Railways are doing for the country. The Railways are earning very valuable revenue for the country and contributing a large

share of it. The Posts and Telegraphs Department also is a commercial unit. It is a public utility as well as a commercial unit. If that is fully utilised, if that is fully exploited, I have no doubt that this department will work in the same way as the Railways are doing today. The only difference is that while in the railways the workers are fully looked after and their grievances are heard that is not the case here. When the Railway Board officials go to the Finance Ministry they put their problems in such a way that they are accepted. On the other hand, the problems of the Posts and Telegraphs are never heard. Their problems are always pending. The Posts and Telegraphs Department is totally paralysed between the two Ministries—Home and Finance. That is why there is more and more dissatisfaction among the workers and staff. Unless that dissatisfaction is removed there will be no efficiency in the department. Here is an opportunity for us. Utilise this to the maximum extent and thereby serve the nation. I wish that all efforts are made in this respect.

श्री राम सहाय पाण्डेय (गुना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, पोस्ट्स एंड टेलिग्राफ्स डिपार्टमेंट के वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन में उसका सेवाओं का जो उल्लेख किया गया है, मैं उसका समर्थन करता हूँ। रचनात्मक दृष्टि से और देश के अर्थ व्यवस्था का समन्वय करते हुए यदि किसी निर्णय पर पहुँचने का प्रयास किया जाये, तो मैं विश्वास के साथ कह सकता हूँ कि अगर बहुत आशा नहीं, तो निराशा के भी कोई कारण नहीं है—इसलिए कि चौथी पंचवर्षीय योजना के द्वार पर खड़े हो कर हम अब तक की सेवाओं की यथार्थवाद तुला पर रख कर यह अनुभव कर सकते हैं कि पीछे जो सेवा के काम हम नहीं कर सके हैं, हम उन कामों को चौथी पंच वर्षीय योजना में पूरा कर सकेंगे।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछुवाय (देवास) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। सदन में कोरम नहीं है।

श्री चं० ला० चौधरी (महुआ) : कोरम से अधिक लोग हैं।

श्री हरि विष्णु कामत (होशंगाबाद) : गिन लीजिए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस तरह हाउस के अपने वक्त का नुकसान होता है।

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कौराना) : लंच टाइम ही इस का इलाज है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : गर्मियाँ आ गई हैं। माननीय सदस्य खाने के लिये जायेंगे और सो जायेंगे और कोरम नहीं होगा।

घंटी बजाई जा रही है—अब कोरम हो गया है।

श्री राम सहाय पाण्डेय : यह प्रतिष्ठान सुविधा और सुरक्षा के माध्यम से गांव-गांव झोपड़ी-झोपड़ी और समाज के अन्तिम व्यक्ति तक सेवा प्रदान करने की क्षमता प्रदान करता है। रेलवे प्रतिष्ठान के बाद यह एक ऐसा प्रतिष्ठान देश में है, जो झोपड़ी-झोपड़ी तक संदेश-वाहक का काम करता है।

इस से पहले कि मैं इस विभाग के सम्बन्ध में अपने विचार प्रकट करूँ, मैं श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह के प्रति कृतज्ञता का भाव प्रकट करता हूँ। इस कृतज्ञता की भावना के पीछे एक बड़ा भारी उदाहरण है। मध्य प्रदेश में पी० एम० जी० सर्कल नहीं था। इसी सदन में कई बार यह प्रश्न उठाया गया और माननीय मंत्री के पूर्वाधिकारी मिनिस्टर ने आश्वासन भी दिये, लेकिन मैं विशेष रूप से श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह के प्रति कृतज्ञता प्रकट करता हूँ कि उन्होंने ने हाल में भोपाल जा कर वहाँ पर पी० एम० जी० सर्कल देने का आश्वासन दिया। मैं निवेदन करूँगा कि वह अपने उत्तर

[श्री राम सहाय पाण्डेय]

में सदन के इस कक्ष में, मध्य प्रदेश के प्रति उन्होंने जो न्यायपूर्ण निर्णय लिया है उस की घोषणा करें।

साढ़े चार लाख कर्मचारियों की संख्या के साथ और 205 करोड़ रुपये के कैपिटल आउटले के प्रावधान के अन्तर्गत पोस्ट्स एंड टेलीग्राफ्स विभाग "अर्हनिश" सेवामहें" अर्थात् "हम दिन-रात सेवा करते हैं" के सिद्धान्त को तार और चिट्ठियों के आदान प्रदान की प्रक्रिया में और टेलीफोन की सुचारु व्यवस्था कर के पूरा करता है। 41,000 पोस्टमैन कर ब डेढ़ करोड़ पत्रों के पुलंदे बांध कर, दस-दस, बारह-बारह मील पैदल चल कर, देश के गांव-गांव में उन पत्रों का वितरण करते हैं। बड़ी उत्सुकता से ग्रामीण और बहुत दूर इन्टीरियर में रहने वाले लोग पत्रों की प्रतीक्षा करते हैं और पत्रों से भी अधिक मनी आर्डर की प्रतीक्षा करते हैं। जिस को मनी आर्डर समय से मिलता है वह जानता है कि कितना सुख उस को प्राप्त होता है। इस सुख सुविधा को प्रदान करने वाले इस पी० एंड० टी० बोर्ड की मैं प्रशंसा करता हूँ।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** और जो मनी आर्डर भेजता है, उस को भी तो तकलीफ होती होगी ?

**श्री राम सहाय पाण्डेय :** इस को अर्थ-व्यवस्था पर दृष्टि डालते हुए मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जब एक स्टील प्लांट देश में आरम्भ हुआ तो उस की लागत तीन और चार सौ करोड़ रुपये क बीच आंकी गई थी। लेकिन इस सारी सेवा में जो कैपिटल आउटले लगा हुआ है वह 205 करोड़ रुपये है, और इस का राजस्व 110 करोड़ रुपये है। इस सुविधा को प्रदान करने में हम 98 रोड़ रुपये आमदनी करते हैं। हम 240 पैसे प्रति वर्ष प्रति व्यक्ति वसूल करते हैं और 220 पैसे प्रति वर्ष प्रति व्यक्ति उन को सुविधायें प्रदान करने में खर्च करते हैं।

मैं समझता हूँ कि इस प्रावधान को चौथी पंचवर्षीय योजना में श्री सत्यनारायण सिंह जी जो कि अपनी कार्यकुशलता के लिए प्रसिद्ध हैं अधिक से अधिक बढ़वाने का प्रयास करेंगे और उन्होंने जो कुछ भी आश्वासन जनता को दिये हैं, उन को वे पूरा कर सकेंगे।

टेलीफोन की व्यवस्था क्या है, यह मैं अब आपके सम्मुख उपस्थित करता हूँ। संसार में टेलीफोन की व्यवस्था को अगर आप देखें तो आपको अनुभव होगा कि हमारे यहां पर टेलीफोन बहुत ही कम है और संसार के मुकाबले में इस क्षेत्र में हम बहुत ही पीछे हैं। 27 देश हैं जहां पर पांच लाख से अधिक टेलीफोन हैं और हमारा 27 वां नम्बर है। सवा सोलह करोड़ संसार में टेलीफोन हैं। यू० के० में ८६ लाख हैं, जापान में ८० लाख हैं, और यू० एस० ए० में आठ करोड़ १० लाख हैं। केवल टोकियो में ही १७ लाख टेलीफोन हैं। हमारे देश में केवल सात लाख टेलीफोन हैं। दिल्ली में ३६ हजार हैं, मद्रास में २० हजार हैं, बम्बई में ६० हजार हैं और कलकत्ता में ७० हजार हैं। चार लाख टेलीफोनो के आवेदनपत्र, एप्लीकेशंस वेटिंग लिस्ट में हैं। ये आवेदन पत्र देश के विभिन्न छोटे छोटे और बड़े बड़े शहरों से आये हैं। इस स्थिति का निवारण होना चाहिये। अभी भरे एक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि जापान ने युद्ध के बाद एक बड़ा कारपोरेशन बनाया और उस कारपोरेशन ने शेयर इशू किये, कैपिटल फ्लोट किया और वहां पर उन्होंने ने बहुत बड़ा उद्योग स्थापित कर के टेलीफोन की आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति की। एक बार हमारे स्वर्गीय रफी अहमद किदबई साहब ने कल्पना की थी और उस कल्पना के अन्तर्गत उन्होंने 25000 "हैव योअर ओन टेलीफोन" की स्कीम को कार्यान्वित किया था। उन की उस कल्पना को आप साकार करें। एक स्वतन्त्र कारपोरेशन आप बनायें जो टेलीफॉज की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करे। इस का कारण यह है कि किसी

भी देश की आर्थिक स्थिति, उस का विकास इस बात पर निर्भर करता है कि अपनी बात को किसी दूसरे तक पहुंचाने के लिए उस को कितनी देर लगनी है, किस गति से मैसिजिज का, किस गति से संदेशों का आदान प्रदान होता है ।

13.23 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

इसी तरह से लोग डिस्टेंस काल्ज के सम्बन्ध में भी आप को कुछ करना चाहिये । अमरीका में जैसे होता है कि आप न्यूयार्क में बैठ कर सान फ्रांसिस्को या लास एंजल्स से सीधे टेलीफोन कर सकते हैं, लांग डिस्टेंस बात कर सकते हैं, उस को आप यहां भी तुरन्त चालू कीजिये । आप ने जो माइक्रोवेव सिस्टम शुरू किया है, आप ने इंट्रोड्यूस किया है, उस को आप और विस्तार दें । यदि ऐसा किया गया तो मैं समझता हूं कि बहुत शीघ्रता के साथ हम दिल्ली बम्बई, बम्बई कलकत्ता, कलकत्ता असम और मद्रास आदि में डायरेक्ट डायलिंग सिस्टम का लाभ वहां लोगों को दे सकते हैं । बहुत से बाहर के लोग जब यहां आते हैं तो हमारे यहां के प्रिमिटिव टेलीफोन सिस्टम को देख कर हैरान होते हैं । बहुत से नगर यहां ऐसे हैं जहां डायरेक्ट डायलिंग सिस्टम भी नहीं है । श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह जी भी अभी पीछे भोपाल गये थे और पांच सात रोज़ हुए वहां पर वह डायरेक्ट डायलिंग सिस्टम का उदघाटन कर के आये हैं । इस के लिये मैं उन्हें बधाई देना चाहता हूं ।

टेलीफोन एक प्रकार की पब्लिक यूटिलिटी सविस है । उस से हमें आमदनी भी होती है । शिष्टाचार और सुविधा इन दोनों दृष्टियों से हमें इस डिपार्टमेंट का विस्तार करना है । सबस्क्राइबर के साथ हमें शिष्टाचार के साथ पेश आना है, और अगर उस को कोई शिकायत हो, ओवर बिलिंग हो

गया हो तो तुरन्त उस का निवारण होना चाहिये और पूरी जांच उस की होनी चाहिये । हम अगर इस का सेवा की दृष्टि से, पब्लिक यूटिलिटी कंसर्न की दृष्टि से निर्वाह करेंगे तो हम जनता को अधिक से अधिक और अच्छी से अच्छी सेवा प्रदान कर सकेंगे ।

हमारे मध्य प्रदेश की टेलीफोन की स्थिति बहुत ही शोचनीय है । वहां केवल 21,000 टेलीफोन कनेक्शन हैं । करीब तीस चालीस हजार प्रार्थना पत्र पैंडिंग पड़े हुए हैं । देश के किसी अन्य भाग थे इतने कम टेलीफोन नहीं होंगे जितने कम वहां हैं । जहां आप ने यह निर्णय लिया है कि पी० एम० जी० सकिल मध्य प्रदेश को मिले वहां आप इस बात को भी न भूलें कि मध्य प्रदेश खनिज पदार्थों से भरा पूरा प्रदेश है और उस का अगर आर्थिक विकास होना है तो उस के लिए टेलीफोन्स की बहुत बड़ी आवश्यकता है । स्टेट्स रिग्रार्ग-नाइजेशन कमिशन की उस सिफारिश की ओर मैं आप का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं जिस में कहा गया है कि मध्य प्रदेश का क्षेत्रफल तो बड़ा हो रहा है लेकिन इस को प्राधुनिक सुख सुविधायें प्राप्त नहीं हैं और वे इस को प्राप्त होनी चाहियें जैसे रेल, रोड, कम्युनिकेशन, बिट्ठी पत्ती, तार, टेलीग्राफ इत्यादि । यदि ये सब सुविधायें इतने बड़े विस्तारवादी प्रदेश को प्राप्त नहीं होंगी तो वह आर्थिक विकास के अपने प्रयत्नों में पिछड़ जायेगा और अन्य प्रदेशों से वह प्रदेश पीछे रह जायेगा, उस के आर्थिक विकास की गति धीमी पड़ जायेगी । मैं समझता हूं कि जितनी आप में क्षमता है, जितनी आप के हाथ में सुविधा प्रदान करने की ताकत है, उस को आप मध्य प्रदेश पर लगाने की कृपा अवश्य करें ।

चौथी पंचवर्षीय योजना में आप सात सौ करोड़ रुपये की मांग अवश्य करें, यह मैं आप से निवदन करना चाहता हूं । आप का बड़ा प्रभाव है, आप कला कौशल हैं और पैसा लगाने की स्थिति में भी हैं । अगर आप इस में

### [श्री राम सहाय पाण्डेय]

सफल हो गए तो तेरह लाख फोन और आप दे सकेंगे चौथी योजना में। तीन हजार पब्लिक काल आफिस और आप खोल सकेंगे और बारह हजार पोस्ट आफिस अधिक आप खोल सकेंगे। यदि आप सात सौ करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान चौथी योजना में करवाने में सफल हो गए तो आप बहुत सी सुविधायें जनता को प्रदान कर सकेंगे।

1948 में जो आप की सेवाओं की स्थिति थी, उस का सिंहावलोकन किया जाए और आज की स्थिति का किया जाए तो यह कहना पड़ता है कि आप आगे बढ़े हैं सेवा के मार्ग में आप आगे बढ़े हैं। कैपिटल आउटले 49.3 करोड़ प्रतिशत बढ़ा है, कर्मचारियों की संख्या 199 प्रतिशत बढ़ी है, पोस्ट आफिसिस 356 प्रतिशत बढ़े हैं, टेलीग्राफ आफिसिस 138 प्रतिशत बढ़े हैं और टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज 600 प्रतिशत बढ़े हैं, टेलीफोन 478 प्रतिशत बढ़े हैं। इसी प्रकार से आप ने 1948-49 के मुकाबले में 1964-65 में पोस्टल आर्टिकल्ज की संख्या 133 प्रतिशत बढ़ाई है, मनीआर्डर्स के मामले में आप की सेवा 111 प्रतिशत बढ़ी है। इस सब को सामने रखते हुए हमारे हृदयों में निराशा की भावना पैदा हो, ऐसी बात नहीं है। लेकिन जितना आपने गत समय में किया है, उससे यह कल्पना होना स्वाभाविक है और इस प्रकार की आस्था भी बंधती है कि भविष्य में जो आप आप्रवासन देंगे उन्हें आप पूरा करेंगे।

दो शब्द मैं कर्मचारियों के सम्बन्ध में कहना चाहता हूँ। जिन की ओर से पी० एंड टी० बोर्ड उदासीन है। यहीं एक ऐसा विभाग है जिस में कर्मचारियों के लिए क्वार्टरों का प्रावधान केवल तीन प्रतिशत है। गांव गांव घूमने वाले पोस्टमैन को केवल 103 रुपये मिलते हैं। दूसरी सेवा करने वाले लोगों के मुकाबले में उन का वेतन भी कम है और उन के लिए निवास की व्यवस्था भी बहुत कम

है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस भ्रवसर पर यह निवेदन करना अत्यन्त यथेष्ट होगा कि हम अधिक से अधिक सुविधायें उन को प्रदान करें क्योंकि अगर सविस का कंसेप्ट है जनता की सेवा करना, अगर सहायता पहुंचाने की कल्पना है तो जो कमी है उस को उदासीनता की दृष्टि से हम न देखें और लोगों को अधिक से अधिक लाभ पहुंचाने का प्रयास करें। इस लाभ में पहले तो वेतन और दूसरे निवास की व्यवस्था बहुत आवश्यक है।

मैं ने अपने क्षेत्र में स्वयं देखा है कि मध्य प्रदेश में बहुत से ऐसे क्षेत्र हैं, जैसे कि आदिवासी क्षेत्र और इंदौरियर विलेज, जहां दस दस बारह बारह मील तक कोई आबादी नहीं होती है। केवल जंगल ही हैं। वहां पर पोस्टमैन को जाना पड़ता है। मैं आप से प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि जितने ब्लाक्स हैं उनमें आप टेलीग्राफ आफिसेज खोलिये। यह केवल मध्य प्रदेश की ही बात नहीं है, सारे देश में अगर आप ब्लाक स्तर पर एक टेलीग्राफ आफिस खोलने की स्थिति पैदा कर दें तो बड़ी अच्छी बात होगी।

मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश में कुछ डाकू इलाके हैं जहां पर मनी-आर्डर वगैरह लेकर पोस्ट मैन नहीं जा पाते हैं। इसलिये जितने पुलिस के थाने हैं, भिंड, मोरेना, शिवपुरी, गुना, विदिशा, दतिया आदि क्षेत्रों में, जो कि उकैत क्षेत्र हैं, उन में हर पुलिस थाने में उनकी डिलिवरी का विशेष प्रबन्ध किया जाये और प्रत्येक थाने में एक पी० सी० ओ० दिया जाये।

श्री हरि विष्णु कामत : इस इलाके में टेलिफोन्स की बहुत जरूरत है।

श्री राम सहाय पाण्डेय : मैं यह इसलिये कहता हूँ कि यह ऐसा क्षेत्र है जो कि अधिक से अधिक सैनिक देता है। वहां पर रिक्त-मेंट होता है और लोगों के नाम से मनी-आर्डर आया करते हैं।

ग्रामी टेलिप्रिटर सेवा मध्य प्रदेश में बिल्कुल नहीं है। इस की धोर भी ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिये। भोपाल और दिल्ली के बीच जाने वाली केवल एक ही तार लाइन है। इसको डबल किया जाना चाहिये।

मैं ने निवेदन किया कि आदिवासी क्षेत्र में हर हेडक्वार्टर पर एक टेलिफोन आफिस होना चाहिये। अधिक से अधिक तीन चार हजार की आबादी के लिये एक पी० सी० ग्रो० खोलना चाहिये।

पब्लिक अकाउंट्स कमेटी की रिपोर्ट देखने के बाद मैं सेविंग्स बैंक अकाउंट्स का कुछ उल्लेख करना चाहता हूँ। जो लोग सेविंग्स बैंक अकाउंट अपरेट करते हैं उनके फार्म में ऐसा कोई प्राविजन नहीं है कि खातेदार अपने लीगल वारिश् का नाम उस में दे। नतीजा यह हुआ कि 38 लाख, 73 हजार, 681 अकाउंट्स में 18 करोड़, 2 लाख, 98 हजार, 813 रु० बतलाया जाता है जिसके बारे में कोई खोज नहीं हो पा रही है। पब्लिक अकाउंट्स कमेटी ने कहा है कि जिस समय अकाउंट अपरेट किया जाये उसमें खातेदार के लीगल वारिश् का उल्लेख किया जाये। पी० ए० सी० ने यह भी कहा है कि जो 18 करोड़ रुपये के लगभग पड़ा हुआ है जिसके सम्बन्ध में कोई डिटेल्ड इन्फार्मेशन नहीं है, उस का पूरा पूरा इन्वेस्टिगेशन किया जाये और खातेदारों के वारिश् को रुपया दिया जाये। साथ ही जिस वक्त कोई अकाउंट अपरेट किया जाये खातेदार से कहा जाये कि वह अपने लीगल वारिश् का नाम दे।

एक अव्यवस्था मैं और निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ। 1 करोड़ 20 लाख रु० का

नुकसान जबलपुर वर्कशाप को, जो कि पोल् बनाती है, हुआ क्योंकि पोल का आर्डर एक प्राइवेट फर्म को दिया गया था जब कि जबलपुर में पोल बनाने के लिये एक फैक्ट्री मौजूद है। यह वह खम्भे हैं जिनके ऊपर तार दौड़ाया जाता है। पब्लिक अकाउंट्स कमेटी इन्वेस्टिगेशन करने के बाद इस निर्णय पर पट्टुंची कि अगर यह आर्डर प्राइवेट फर्म को न दिया गया होता तो वहाँ की फैक्ट्री को 1 करोड़ 20 लाख रु० का नुकसान न होता। मैं समझता हूँ कि पी० एंड टी० बोर्ड को इस पर ध्यान देना चाहिये कि ऐसा कैसे हुआ। यह अनियमितता कैसे हुई कि एक प्राइवेट फर्म को यह आर्डर दिया गया जब कि हम खुद इसको बनाते हैं और एक्स्चेजर को 1 करोड़ 20 लाख रु० का नुकसान दिया गया।

यह तमाम बातें मैं ने आपसे निवेदन की हैं। लेकिन मैं चाहता हूँ कि अपना निवेदन समाप्त करने के पहले मैं एक बार फिर श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह जी को धन्यवाद दूँ और उन से आशा करूँ कि जिस प्रकार वह अपनी कुशल नीति से और अपने प्रभाव से काम कर रहे हैं उसी प्रकार चौथी पंचवर्षीय योजना के द्वार पर खड़े हो कर वे वित्त मंत्री से रुपया लें और देश को जो आशावासन वे देते हैं उसको पूरा करें।

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Hon. Members may now move the cut motions to Demands for Grants relating to the Department of Communications subject to their being otherwise admissible.

**Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:** I beg to move:

(i) "That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs working expenses be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Need to issue commemorative stamps of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Vithalbai Patel and



*Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaekwad* (9)].

(ii) "That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs working expenses be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to instal postal letter boxes on important State transport buses (10)].

(iii) "That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs working expenses be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase frequency of postal deliveries in Villages (11)].

(iv) "That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs working expenses be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to modernize and expand existing telephone exchanges and supply more telephones to large cities (12)].

(v) "That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs working expenses be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to step up training of staff of Administrative and Operative Offices to learn Hindi. (13)].

**Dr. M. S. Aney** (Nagpur): I beg to move:

(i) "That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs working expenses be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to retain the Central Circle Nagpur, in its present form (14)].

(ii) "That the demand under the head Posts and Telegraphs Dividend to General Revenue and Appropriations to Reserve Funds be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Policy of transferring the surplus to the Development Fund and the Revenue Reserve Fund (15)].

(iii) "That the demand under the head Other Revenue Expenditure of the Department of Communications be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Inadequate provision for expenditure connected with national emergency particularly under air-raid precautions and monitoring organisations (16)].

**Shri Daji**: I beg to move:

(i) "That the demand under the head Department of Communications be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Delay in setting up M.P. Circle at Bhopal (20)].

(ii) "That the demand under the head Department of Communications be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Delay in construction of Telephone Exchange Building at Indore (21)].

(iii) "That the demand under the head Department of Communications be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to recover outstanding telephone bills (22)].

(iv) "That the demand under the head Department of Communications be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Increase in the number of officers making the Department top-heavy (23)].

(v) "That the demand under the head Department of Communications be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Technical difficulties of cross-bar system (24)].

(vi) "That the demand under the head Department of Communications be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Service conditions of extra-departmental postal staff (25)].

(vii) "That the demand under the head Department of Communications be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to construct an Automatic Telephone Exchange in Trichur Town (26)].

(viii) "That the demand under the head Department of Communications be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to construct a multi-storeyed building in Trichur to accommodate all the different postal offices in the Central Market place (27)].

(ix) "That the demand under the head Department of Communications be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to construct quarters for P&T staff in Trichur (28)].

(x) "That the demand under the head Department of Communications be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to take steps to extend proper dormitory facilities to Telephone Exchange staff in Trichur (29)].

(xi) "That the demand under the head Department of Communications be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to extend telephone and telegraph facilities to Palappilly plantation area in Trichur district (30)].

(xii) "That the demand under the head Department of communications be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to expedite clearing of telephone connection applications in Trichur district (31)].

(xiii) "That the demand under the head Department of Com-

munications be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Lack of adequate and necessary amenities for the Post and Telegraph staff (32)].

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The cut motions are also before the House.

श्री विश्वनाथ राय (देवरिया) :

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय इस सदन एवम् सरकार द्वारा स्वीकृत समाजवादी व्यवस्था के कार्यक्रम को कार्यान्वित करने में चाहे अन्य मंत्रालयों द्वारा कुछ कमजोरी ही दिखालाई गई हो या उस में ऐसी त्रुटियाँ रही हों जिन पर विशेष आक्षेप करने का अवसर विरोधी बेंचों को मिला हो, लेकिन इस मंत्रालय के सम्बन्ध में अभी अभी कुछ मिनट पहले अपने को साम्यवादी या समाजवादी कहने वाले एक माननीय सदस्य का यह आरोप कि इस में काफी घाटा हुआ है, मुझे अनुचित ही नहीं बल्कि आश्चर्यजनक मालूम होता है। यह मंत्रालय ऐसा नहीं है जिस में कोई बड़ी पूंजी लगा कर बड़ी इंडस्ट्री या व्यवसाय की बात हो। इस का सम्बन्ध तो उस गरीब और निर्धन व्यक्ति से भी है जिस के पास भूमि भी नहीं है और पैसा भी नहीं है, फिर भी जो राजकीय व्यवस्था से पूरा लाभ उठाता है, चाहे वह करोड़पतियों के मुकाबले में हो चाहे साधारण व्यक्ति के मुकाबले में हो। जो भी घाटा इस मंत्रालय द्वारा दिया गया है वह ऐसा घाटा नहीं है जोकि पैसे का दुरुपयोग करने के कारण हुआ हो। बल्कि वह धनराशि तो उन अभिप्रायों के लिये खर्च होती है जिन से गांवों के लोग भी, पिछड़े हुए क्षेत्रों के लोग भी और गरीब लोग भी लाभ सठाते हैं। इसलिये अपने को साम्यवादी या समाजवादी कहने वाले सदस्यों को इस बात का ध्यान रखना चाहिए कि यदि किसी मंत्रालय द्वारा अधिक पैसा लगाया जाता है और उस से लाभ नहीं होता है तो वह खर्च किस कार्य के लिये हो रहा है, उस से साधारण जनता, पिछड़ी हुई

[श्री विश्वनाथ राय]

जनता लाभ उठा रही है या नहीं। यह माननीय सदस्य इस बात को न भूलें। बहर-हाल इस सम्बन्ध में मैं इतना ही कह कर समाप्त करता हूँ कि हो सकता है कि चौथी पंचवर्षीय योजना में आगे चल कर इन साधनों से लाभ भी हो, जिन से इस वक्त हानि हो रही है, या घाटा हो रहा है, लेकिन हमें इस दृष्टिकोण से नहीं देखना है कि हम घाटे को बचाने के लिए गरीब जनता को, ग्रामीण जनता को इस सरकारी व्यवस्था से या सुविधा से वंचित करें जिन के द्वारा कहीं अच्छा हो कि हम ज्यादा सुविधायें प्रदान करें।

इस सम्बन्ध में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि वह सुविधा चाहे लड़ाख से हो चाहे नेफा से, जहाँ पर कि हमारे जवान लोग बैठे हैं, सब जगह पर्याप्त रूप में बढ़ती जा रही है और इस से हम लोगों को सन्तोष है। मैं मंत्रालय को इसलिये बधाई नहीं देना चाहता हूँ कि इस सेवा का विस्तार हो रहा है बल्कि इसलिये देना चाहता हूँ कि यह विस्तार तेजी से हो रहा है, और कहीं कहीं तो यह विस्तार प्रशंसनीय हुआ है स्वाधीनता से अब तक के वर्षों में। ऐसी वशा में मैं आशा करता हूँ कि इस मंत्रालय के मार्ग में यदि वित्त मंत्री द्वारा कुछ कठिनाई पैदा की गई हो तो उस के लिये और अधिक सुविधा और अर्थ व्यवस्था का प्रबन्ध होना चाहिये ताकि गांवों तक इस सुविधा को पहुंचाने में सहायता मिले।

इस विभाग के सम्बन्ध में हमें जो रिपोर्ट मिली है उस में एक जगह पर चर्चा है कि जहां कुछ साल पहले केवल 22,116 गांवों में पोस्ट आफिस थे और उनके द्वारा रोज पत्र पहुंचाये जाते थे वहां अब 96,596 गांवों में डाकघर की यह सुविधा प्राप्त होती है। इस मामले में हमें थोड़ा सा असन्तोष भी है। असन्तोष इस लिये नहीं है कि जैसी रिपोर्ट है वैसा पूर्ण रूप से नहीं हो रहा है,

बल्कि यह है कि कहीं कहीं तो यह होता है कहा तो यह जाता है कि रोज पत्र बांटे जाते हैं लेकिन वहां हफ्ते में एक बार या दो बार से अधिक यह काम नहीं होता है। परन्तु यह मंत्रालय का दोष नहीं कहा जा सकता। यह इसलिये है कि जो स्थानीय अधिकारी हैं उन का ध्यान और उन की दृष्टि जो गांव स्तर के पोस्ट आफिस हैं उन के ऊपर पूरी नहीं होती, जितनी होनी चाहिये। इसलिये आप जो भी निर्णय लेते हैं उस निर्णय को कार्यान्वित करने के लिये जो आप के कर्मचारी हैं चाहे ऊपर स्तर के हों या उस के नीचे के स्तर के, उन के बारे में अधिक सक्रिय हो कर ध्यान रखने की आवश्यकता है उन का इस बात पर ध्यान दिलाना होगा ताकि जो सुविधा आप देश में देते हैं उस का उपयोग पूरी तरह से गांव के लोग भी कर सकें, चाहे वह इस रूप में हो या दूसरे रूप में हो।

मुझे यह कहने में खुशी होती है कि केवल आप पत्रों को भेजने की सुविधा ही नहीं बढ़ा रहे हैं बल्कि टेलीफोन आदि की व्यवस्था भी तेजी से बढ़ रही है। और जो टेलीफोन लिमिटेड कम्पनी है उस के द्वारा आप इस स्थिति में पहुंच गए हैं कि न सिर्फ अपनी आवश्यकताएं पूरी कर लेते हैं बल्कि उसका कुछ सामान आप दूसरे देशों को निर्यात भी कर रहे हैं। इस सम्बन्ध में एक बात ध्यान में रखनी चाहिए। अभी आप इस सामान को केवल आस पास के छोटे छोटे देशों को ही निर्यात कर रहे हैं। मेरा निवेदन है कि जो अफ्रीका के नए नए देश स्वाधीन हो रहे हैं और जिन में तरक्की का काम आरम्भ हो गया है, वहां भी आप अपने इस प्रकार के सामान के लिए बाजार प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। उस और भी आप को ध्यान देना चाहिये। मेरा सुझाव है कि आप इस प्रकार के सामान का उत्पादन बढ़ावें, जिससे अपनी आवश्यकता पूरी करने के साथ साथ देश की फारेन एक्सचेंज के मामले में भी

[ मदद कर सकें। मैं तो चाहता हूँ कि इस सामान को बनाने के लिए आप ग्रगली योजना में एक और कारखाना चालू करें। लेकिन मैं देखता हूँ कि चौथी योजना के लिए आपके साधन सीमित हैं, और यदि इस योजना के काल में आप इस प्रकार के कारखाने की स्थापना के लिए धन प्राप्त न कर सकें तो इस प्रकार के कारखाने को पब्लिक सेक्टर के बजाय प्राइवेट सेक्टर में खोलने की व्यवस्था करें। इस से देश को बड़ा लाभ हो सकता है।

इसी तरह से मैं टेलीप्रिन्टर के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ। इस दिशा में भी आप प्रगति कर रहे हैं और लोगों को अधिक लाभ पहुंचा रहे हैं लेकिन कई बड़े बड़े स्थानों में यद्यपि वे काफी बड़े स्थान हैं यह सुविधा अभी प्राप्त नहीं हो रही है। मेरा अभिप्राय गोरखपुर से है। यहां 15-16 साल से एक अखबार चलाने का विचार किया जा रहा है। अगर वहां से एक दैनिक पत्र प्रकाशित होने लगे तो लगभग दो करोड़ जनता को 24 घंटे में समाचार मिल सकते हैं और लाभ हो सकता है, लेकिन जब जब यहां के लिए टेलीप्रिन्टर की व्यवस्था के लिए प्रयत्न किया गया उस में सफलता नहीं मिली। गोरखपुर के आस पास बहुत बड़ी संख्या में ग्रामीण जनता है और उसे एक पत्र की बड़ी आवश्यकता है।

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछबाय :** उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हाउस में कोरम नहीं है।

(कोरम की घंटी बजायी गयी)

**श्री विश्वनाथ राय :** माननीय उपाध्यक्ष जी, ऐसे अवसरों पर विरोधी दलों के सदस्य सरकार पर आरोप करते हैं, पर संसद के सदस्य होने के नाते उन की भी जिम्मेवारी उतनी ही है जितनी कि इधर के बैठने वालों की। इस तरह बार बार कोरम के बारे में आपत्ति उठाने से जनता के पैसे का बहुत नुकसान होता है। संसद पर एक मिनट में

लगभग 70 रुपया खर्च होता है। इस प्रकार कोरम की आपत्ति उठाने से जनता का नुकसान होता है यह बात मैं विरोधी दल के सदस्यों से कहना चाहता हूँ।

इस विभाग के जोन्स के संगठन के बारे में मेरा निवेदन है कि कुछ जोन्स का संगठन इस प्रकार किया गया है कि एक प्रदेश का कुछ हिस्सा दूसरे प्रदेश के जोन में आ जाता है। उदाहरण के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश के पूर्वी भाग के एक जिले का कुछ हिस्सा बिहार के पटना जोन में आ जाता है इससे जनता को तार भेजने में कठिनाई होती है क्यों कि तार पहुंचने में अधिक देरी लगती है। मेरा निवेदन है कि इस दृष्टि से सारे देश में जो पोस्टल जोन हैं उनके पुनर्संगठन की आवश्यकता है। अगर यह व्यवस्था ठीक कर दी जाए तो तार पहुंचने में कम समय लगेगा और लोगों को सुविधा होगी।

ग्रामीण पोस्ट आफिस अधिक खोलने के लिए मैं ने सरकार को बधाई दी है। आप घाटा उठा कर भी लोगों को सुविधा पहुंचाने का प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं, लेकिन कहीं कहीं स्थानीय अधिकारियों द्वारा यह काम ठीक रूप से नहीं हो रहा है। वे काम बढ़ने के डर से इस काम को जैसे करना चाहिये वैसे नहीं करते। इस ओर ध्यान देना चाहिये। यह सब होने पर भी आपका संगठन बढ़ रहा है और अधिक स्थानों को पत्र और मनीग्रार्डर आदि पहुंच रहे हैं। लेकिन इस सम्बन्ध में एक बात की ओर मैं आप का यह ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ। अभी तक आपके यहां मेल बैग भेजने का वही तरीका चल रहा है जोकि अंग्रेज के जमाने में था। अब जबकि अधिक सुविधा प्राप्त है इस तरीके में भी परिवर्तन करना चाहिए। जिन स्थानों में रेल की सुविधा नहीं है वहां मेल बैग बस से भेजे जाते हैं। लेकिन ऐसे भी स्थान हैं जहां पर रेल है, लेकिन वहां रोक ब्रेक द्वारा पत्र आदि जल्दी पहुंच सकते हैं। लेकिन ऐसा नहीं किया जाता और रेल से ही मेल बैग

[श्री विश्वनाथ राय]

भेजे जाते हैं, यद्यपि स्टेशन दूर पड़ते हैं और इस प्रकार पत्र आदि पहुंचने में देरी भी अधिक लगती है। मेरा सुझाव है कि यदि ऐसे स्थानों को रेल के बजाय रोडवेज द्वारा मेल बैग भेजे जाएं तो जनता को भी पत्र जल्दी मिल सकते हैं और शायद सरकार का खर्चा भी कम होगा। इस और मैं आप का ध्यान विशेष रूप से आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।

मैं सरकार की ओर इस मंत्रालय की प्रशंसा करना चाहता हूँ कि इतने बड़े देश में वह पत्र आदि लोगों तक पहुंचने के काम में बहुत प्रगति कर रही है। इस देश में जहां 44 करोड़ आदमी रहते हैं प्रति दिन एक करोड़ से भी ज्यादा पत्र बांटे जाते हैं। यह साधारण सफलता नहीं है। यह ठीक है कि इस काम में कभी कभी देर भी हो जाती है, जैसे उदाहरण के लिए मुझे गोरखपुर से देवरिया छिप्टी डाइरेक्टर आफ एजुकेशन द्वारा भेजा गया पत्र—जोकि दूसरे दिन मिल जाना चाहिए था—एक महीने में मिला। लेकिन यह बात आम नहीं है। ऐसा कभी कभी पत्र के मिसप्लेस हो जाने से हो जाता है। फिर इतने ज्यादा पत्रों में कभी कभी कुछ ऐसा गलती हो जाना स्वाभाविक है। लेकिन इस प्रकार की गलती के होते हुए भी आज जनता यह अनुभव करती है कि आज एक गरीब आदमी को भी डाक के मामले में एक करोड़पति के समान ही सुविधा प्राप्त है।

इस सम्बन्ध में मैं एक बात की ओर सरकार का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ। इस विभाग की यह नीति है कि जो ज्यादा पिछड़े हुए स्थान हैं वहां पर पोस्ट आफिस खोलने के लिए वे शर्तें लागू नहीं की जायेंगी जो उन से कम पिछड़े स्थानों के लिए लागू की जाती हैं। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता कि पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश का क्षेत्र और उत्तर बिहार का भाग बहुत पिछड़ा इलाका है।

संसद की तरफ से पटेल कमेटी भी इस इलाके का अध्ययन करने गयी थी और उस ने भी इस भाग की ओर सरकार का विशेष ध्यान आकर्षित किया था। जहां और बातों की सुविधा के लिए उस कमेटी ने सिफारिश की थी वहां इस इलाके में डाक की सुविधा बढ़ाने की भी सिफारिश की थी। उस की ओर मैं सरकार का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ।

अन्त में मैं आपसे अपने जिले देवरिया के सम्बन्ध में कह दूँ। आपने टेलीफोन की सुविधा यहां बढ़ायी है, लेकिन स्थानीय अधिकारियों की लापरवाही से जनता को दिक्कत होती है। मैं ने कई बार टेलीफोन मिलाते वक्त सुना है कि लोग बाजा बजा रहे हैं और इससे आपरेटर देर में कनेक्शन देता है।

इसी तरह से मैं सदन को बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि साहेबगंज एक बाजार है और उस इलाके में जो जूट पैदा होता है वह उस का एक बड़ा सेंटर है। साहेबगंज के लोगों ने काफी अर्थ से टेलीफोन कनेक्शन के लिए रुपया जमा कर रक्खा है। लेकिन उन्हें टेलीफोन कनेक्शन नहीं मिल रहा है। उसी तरह से एक नहीं अपितु अनेकों कस्बे हैं जो बढ़ रहे हैं और जहां टेलीफोन की सुविधा देनी आवश्यक है। वहां पर टेलीफोन की सुविधा हो जाने से उन के व्यवसाय करने में सुविधा होगी, अपने कामों को शीघ्रता से करने के लिए उन्हें सहायता मिलेगी साथ ही जो वहां के किसान हैं उन के कामों को बढ़ाने के लिए भी विशेष सुविधा इस से हो जायगी।

इन चंद सुझावों की ओर मैं मंत्रालय का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। मुझे

भाषा है कि इन पर सहानुभूतिपूर्वक विचार किया जायेगा। मैं आप को, जो मुझे बोलने का अवसर दिया, उस के लिए धन्यवाद देते हुए अपना स्थान ग्रहण करता हूँ।

**Shri Basappa (Tiptur):** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when we are criticising the activities of the P. & T. Department, we cannot afford to forget the vastness of the area which this Department is serving and also the great handicaps under which it is working and the great deficiencies we inherited from the Britishers. If we take all these into consideration, the progress that has been made in this direction is not a very small thing.

Sir, we can hold our head high in the international world of posts and telegraphs. It has been given to understand that in the Congress of the International Postal Union that was held recently in Europe we have been elected as one of the Vice-Presidents. We have also been told that we were able to secure places in the Executive Committee as well as in the Management Committee. This goes to show that our Posts and Telegraphs Department has a place in the international world of communications and the gloomy picture that Shri Daji painted about this Department should not be taken very seriously. Of course, there are minor details in which we can attempt to do so many improvements; but the broad picture of general progress and the new look that the Minister has been able to give to this Department should not be lost sight of. Of course, the hundreds and thousands and lakhs of workers who are behind the successful working of this Department have to be congratulated first. So, this will be an occasion for me to pay my tribute to all those people who are working very sincerely. With his informal outlook and with his practical sagacity, the Minister has been able to give a new look and this will go a long way in bringing the department closer to the people.

Sir, the welfare of the workers is a great thing and various welfare boards

have been constituted in this connection. More quarters and more buildings will be made available for them to have a decent living. The Ministry has also brought out a small pamphlet where they have given what they were able to do to the general public on special occasions. During the time of Nehru's *shraddhanjali*, at the time of various religious conferences held all over India, during the Congress sessions and also during some other sessions, they have played a very notable part. Even the recent P. & T. week was of a great educative value to the people of this country. In the matter of sports also they are in the forefront.

Shri Daji is not here now. He made a very serious attack on the working of the P. & T. Board. He wanted that there should be a P. & T. Board like the Railway Board. Though I agree with him on certain points, I do not agree with all that he has said. The Minister is quite conscious of this and he knows how to make the P. & T. Board a very efficient Board. He believes in decentralisation of work and I have no doubt, Sir, that he will make this body a very important body.

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है कि हाउस में कोरम नहीं है।

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

**Shri Basappa:** I was referring to some of the statements of Shri Daji, who was saying that the Ministry of Finance has got very great control over the finances of this Department, and very little can be done by the P. & T. Board in this regard. I can assure him that our Minister, sitting very near to Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, will not succumb to this control and he will try to assert himself and see that his Department gets its due.

The demands on this Ministry are so vast that more funds are needed to meet all the demands. For the

[Shri Basappa]

development of posts and telegraphs on modern up-to-date lines, maybe more than Rs. 600 crores are required and what is given may be less than half of the total requirement. For the whole of India we have only 7 lakhs of telephones and I am told that in Tokyo alone there are 7 lakhs of telephones. We can imagine what a lot of work is in front of us to come up to their mark. I am also told that for every thousand of population we have only 0.9 telephone, not even one per thousand, whereas in the USA it is 379 for one thousand and in Sweden 340 for a thousand. So we have got such an enormous amount of work to be done. In the fourth Plan we have planned for 7 lakhs of telephones more and 3,000 Exchange stations are to be built. This is not a small thing. I am sure the programme that the Department has chalked out will go a long way to make it up-to-date.

The achievements of the Department and also the progress of the Department are not very small if we consider the following aspects. In 1948 we were spending about Rs. 34 crores and in 1964 we were spending about Rs. 205 crores. The capital outlay has increased by 493%. The employees have increased from 1,53,000 to 1,99,000—about 199% increase. The number of Post Offices has gone up from 20,240 to 92,317—356% increase. If we analyse the progress in this way, we can see that the achievement of this Department is not in any way small. What is required is more funds to see that the expansion work goes on very well. The research work that is going on and the training programme that is to be set up will have to be attended to with greater force and that means more allocation of funds. My hon. friend Shri R. S. Pandey was referring to the progress that had been achieved in Japan. One of the main reasons for the progress in Japan is the flexibility of approach that they have adopted; besides, the association of the public in the work of postal,

telegraph and telephone operations has contributed a great deal. In our country, the Department takes an amount of about Rs. 2000 by way of advance for telephone connections. If in Japan they were to do like that, they would be paying a dividend also on that amount, and see that the public are more and more associated and they bring in their money and the department expands further and further. I would request the hon. Minister to look into this matter and see how far the Department can make progress in this direction.

14 hrs.

Some of the things that have been done, as, for example, the introduction of the system of recovery of telegraph charges in cash will go a long way in relieving the congestion that my hon. friend was speaking about. Similarly, the night postal service also has been a good thing. Similarly, the panchayat postal scheme also will help in trying to make both ends meet, and it will enable us to have more and more post offices in the rural areas also. As regards mechanisation in the postal department, I would submit that that is very necessary, because the work is increasing tremendously, and the electric letter-sorting device must be adopted in many places. Recently in London we saw how the mechanical system of sorting letters had contributed a great deal to quicker clearance. I would, therefore, suggest that such systems may be introduced not only in Delhi but in several other cities. In regard to commemorative stamps issued by the P&T Department, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that some representations had been made in the past about one Bhakti Bandhari Basavarayya of Karnataka, who had done a great work in the eleventh century, who was known as a great thinker and also as a great philosopher, who was a man well known for the Kannada literature that he wrote of a very high standard, who worked very

much for the uplift of the Harijans and who wanted to bring about a casteless society. I hope that the hon. Minister will pay some attention to this matter and see that stamps are issued to commemorate the memory of this great man.

The P&T Advisory Committees which have been set up all over the country, and on which we have been Members, have been doing some good work. Particularly, in the Mysore Circle, these meetings are held very often, and we bring to the notice of the postal authorities there the local grievances, and immediately they are set right.

In regard to the RMS, I would submit that there should be greater co-ordination between the P&T Department and the railways, for in regard to the accommodation either in the vans or at the stations or about the timings to be allowed, there is a great discrepancy, and there is a need felt for greater co-ordination between the two Departments.

As regards the workshops, I would submit that what is required is greater production. They feel handicapped at present in the matter of greater production, for want of raw materials. In the Stores Department, there should be more vigilance exercised, so that the stores are made available to the public in time, because otherwise the works cannot be taken up in time. I am saying this particularly because we see that a lot of postal property is lying idle, and this results in great damage being caused to the public property. Greater care should be exercised in this matter so that there may be no loss caused on this score.

When I am speaking about the works and the workshops, I cannot forget mentioning the Indian Telephone Industries which has been doing very good work in Bangalore. That factory has to be expanded, and it has to be given all assistance because its results have been very

good. Instead of Government going in for a second factor of that type, I wish the same factory could be expanded to a very great extent so that it may give good results. I am making this suggestion since we are thinking of nearly seven lakhs of telephones and about 3000 exchanges. This particular factory is doing good research work also in the field of the expansion of the telephone services.

In regard to the Overseas Communications Service, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that there is a lot of delay especially when the messages are brought and they have to be conveyed through the P&T Department. I would request that the frequencies for the Overseas Communications Service should be increased and a greater demand should be made for them and fuller utilisation should also be made.

I hope that the hon. Minister will look into all these things and not only put the P&T Department on well-established lines, but also improve it considerably so that this public utility concern may be of great use to the public.

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा (कोटा) :  
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, सबसे पहले तो मैं पोस्टल ऐंड टेलिग्राफ्स विभाग के उन कर्मचारियों को धन्यवाद दूंगा, जिन्होंने राष्ट्रीय रक्षा कोष के लिए 5,22,295 रुपये के मूल्य के 149,226 मनी ऑर्डर, जिनकी कमीशन 22,000 रुपये होती, भेजने में अपना टाइम निकाल कर सेवा प्रदान की ।

डाक तार विभाग के मंत्री साहब ने बड़ी होशियारी से काम लिया है । 1962 में संसद्-सदस्यों की जो अनौपचारिक बैठक आफिसरों के साथ होने वाली थी, उन्होंने उसको खत्म कर दिया, ताकि उन से हमारा सम्पर्क न बनने पाये और कुछ भी मालूम न हो सके । पहले आडिट रिपोर्ट के द्वारा जबलपुर, दिल्ली और बंगलोर की फैक्टरियों में लाखों रुपये का घोटाला प्रकट किया गया



[श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा]

बा। अब उस आडिट रिपोर्ट को भी खत्म कर दिया गया है, जिसका परिणाम यह है कि कहीं भी किसी प्रकार के भ्रष्टाचार का विवरण नहीं दिया गया है। अगर आडिट रिपोर्ट होती, तो हमें उससे कुछ मालूम हो सकता था।

यह ठीक है कि इस विभाग ने बहुत कुछ तरक्की की है और बहुत कुछ अच्छा काम किया है, लेकिन इस विभाग की स्थिति उस गाड़ी की तरह है, जिसका स्टीयरिंग व्हील गृह-मंत्रालय के हाथ में है, पहिये परिवहन मंत्रालय के हाथ में हैं और ब्रेक वित्त मंत्रालय के हाथ में है। तो यह विभाग क्या करे? इस रिपोर्ट में एक जगह लिखा गया है :

“आर्थिक संकट के कारण, 1964-65 में नये ढाकघरों को खोलने के लिये नियत निधि में आठ लाख रुपये की कटौती कर दी गई। तीसरी पंच-वर्षीय योजना में 23,000 नये ढाकघर खोलने के लक्ष्य की पूर्ति, 1965-66 में, जो कि तीसरी योजना का अन्तिम वर्ष है, पर्याप्त निधि की व्यवस्था होने पर ही निर्भर करेगी।”

इसका अर्थ यह है कि काम निल है, क्योंकि जितना पैसा इस विभाग को देना चाहिए था, वह नहीं दिया जाता है और इस विभाग की जितनी आमदनी होती है, उसको रख लेते हैं। तो कार्य किस से होगा?

केन्द्रीय सरकार के तीन महकमों—रेलवेज, पुलिस और डाक तार विभाग में से पहले दो में तो घोटाला चल सकता है, लेकिन मैं बघाई दूंगा कि डाक-तार विभाग में घोटाला बगैरह ज्यादा नहीं होता है—घोड़ा सा होता है। वह भी किसके कारण

होता है? हमारे मंत्री साहब नये नये आये हैं और इसलिए उन्होंने अभी सरबे नहीं किया है कि कौन सा अफसर किस जगह क्या कर रहा है। अभी वह देख नहीं पाए हैं। तीन महीने पहले मैं ने एक लेटर लिखा था कि कुछ आफिसर ऐसे बैठे हुए हैं, जिन्होंने अपनी मानोपली जमा रखी है, जो छठी क्लास भी पास नहीं हैं। अगर मंत्री महोदय कोई प्रमाण चाहें, तो मैं बता सकता हूँ कि विदेश संचार विभाग में एक डीरोचा साहब हैं, जो छठी क्लास भी पास नहीं हैं। मंत्री महोदय उनके सर्टिफिकेट मंगा कर यह बात देख सकते हैं।

इस विभाग में पुराने जमाने के बहुत से पीर बवर्ची भरे हुए हैं। सभी आफिसर ऐसे नहीं हैं। बहुत से पढ़े-लिखे और ग्रेजुएट भी हैं, जिनको आगे बढ़ने का मौका दिया जाना चाहिए। इस बात का सरबे किया जाना चाहिए कि कौन आफिसर कितना पढ़ा-लिखा है और कौन अपनी चाटुकारिता के कारण आगे बढ़ा हुआ है। ये पुराने लोग अपने अफसरों को बोटल के चक्कर में फंसाए रखते हैं यह व्यवस्था ठीक होनी चाहिए।

यह ठीक है कि इस विभाग ने बहुत कुछ तरक्की की है, लेकिन मेरा खयाल है कि जहां पंचायतें बनी हुई हैं, वहां पंचायतों के आधार पर ढाकघर खोले जायें और पी० सी० ओ० लगाये जायें। गुजरात और राजस्थान में ऐसी व्यवस्था की जा सकती है। राजस्थान में बहुत कुछ तरक्की हुई है। लेकिन पैसे की तरफ भी देखना पड़ता है कि जितना पैसा हो, उसना ही काम किया जाये। पैसे के अभाव के कारण काम नहीं किया जा रहा है। मैं वित्त मंत्री साहब से कहूंगा कि इस विभाग को सब से ज्यादा पैसा देना चाहिए, क्योंकि जिस तरह हिन्दी जोड़ने वाली भाषा है, उसी तरह डाक-तार विभाग भी दिल्ली को बम्बई से

जोड़ने वाला है—तोड़ने वाला नहीं है । इस विभाग को ज्यादा से ज्यादा रुपया देना चाहिए, ताकि इसकी आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति जल्दी से जल्दी हो जाये ।

आर० एम० एस० के कर्मचारियों को दिन-रात काम करते हुए भी केवल दो तीन रुपये भत्ता मिलता है, जब कि रेलवेज के गार्डज़ और इंजन ड्राइवर्ज़ को १८ रुपये और साढ़े सात रुपये मिलता है । ओवर टाइम में इतना ग्रंथर क्यों है, इतनी ग्रंथर-गर्दी क्यों है, जब कि दोनों विभाग सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के अधीन हैं ? आर० एम० एम० के कर्मचारियों को साढ़े सात रुपये न दिये जायें, पांच रुपये ही दिये जायें—ग्रंथरह रुपये न दिये जायें, बारह रुपये ही दिये जायें, लेकिन उनकी तरफ मंत्री महोदय की निगाह क्यों नहीं होती है ? वे भी केन्द्रीय कर्मचारी हैं और ये भी केन्द्रीय कर्मचारी हैं । एक भाई ने वर्दी का जिक्र किया है । इनको खादी की वर्दी दी जाती है । और तीन साल में उसको बदला जाता है, तीन साल के बाद दूसरी वर्दी दी जाती है । वह वर्दी छः महीने में ही फट जाती है और ये कार्टून नज़र आने लग जाते हैं । यह सच्ची बात है । धुलाई का इनको एक रुपया या आठ आने दिया जाता है । एक रुपया या आठ आना जो दिया जाता है वह तो हस्ते में ही साफ हो जाता है । उसको घर घर काम करना पड़ता है ।

उनके आफिस की जो व्यवस्था है वह भी बहुत खराब है । कोटा आफिस की बात मैं आपको बतलाता हूँ । कोटा राजस्थान में जो आफिस है वह बहुत ही छोटा है । वहां की जनसंख्या डेढ़ लाख के करीब है । उसके आफिस को आप देखें तो पता चलेगा कि बीस आदमियों के बैठने की भी अच्छी तरह से व्यवस्था नहीं है । वे वहां बैठ कर अच्छी तरह से काम भी नहीं कर सकते हैं । यैले ही यैले उस हैड आफिस में भर जाते हैं । काम करने में उनको बहुत भारी असुविधा होती है ।

जब क्यू लगती है तो सड़क तक आ जाती है । कई बार इसके बारे में मंत्री महोदय को कहा जा चुका है लेकिन कुछ होता ही नहीं है । यह कहा जाता है कि वित्त मंत्री को फाइल भजी गई है । तीन साल तो मुझे इस हाउस में हो गये हैं लेकिन आज तक वह फाइल ही वित्त मंत्री से वापिस नहीं आई है । न मालूम कौन से कौन में उस फाइल को दबा कर रख छोड़ा गया है । आपको चाहिए कि आप स्वयं जाकर स्थिति की जानकारी हासिल करें ।

तार घर की हालत क्या है इसको भी आप देखें । चार हजार या कितना रुपया आपने रिपेयर वर्क के लिए दिया है जिसके लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ । लेकिन वह तो नया बनने के काबिल है । वह तब बना था जब वहां की आबादी केवल ३३ हजार थी । आज वहां की आबादी डेढ़ लाख हो गई है । वह इंडस्ट्रियल एरिया भी बन रहा है । सब कुछ होते हुए भी बड़े एक पोस्ट आफिस और बड़े तार घर का वहां न होना अफमोस की ह बात है ।

मेल सर्विस के बारे में मैं अब कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ । आर० एम० एस० के लिए जो डिब्बा दिया जाता है, उसके बारे में मैं कहते कहते थक गया हूँ । जगजीवन राम जी से भी मैं ने कई बार कहा है और अब मैं आप से भी कहता हूँ । वही टूटा फटा डिब्बा चलता है । एक दफा वह खुल जाये तो बन्द ही नहीं होता है और बन्द हो जाये तो खुलता ही नहीं है । थर्ड क्लास डिब्बा है । पता नहीं 1856 का बना हुआ है । बारिश होती है तो उस में से पानी टपकता है और यैले भीग जाते हैं । एक दफा जब इस बात को मैं ने कहा तो मुझे बताया गया कि निर्माण हो रहा है, फिर कहा तो बताया गया कि रंग हो रहा है और तीसरी बार कहा तो कहा गया कि पहिये लग रहे हैं । पता नहीं वह आज तक क्यों नहीं बना है और क्यों नहीं दिया गया । आर० एम० ए०

[श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा]

एस० वालों को कहा जाता है तो कहते हैं कि रेल वालों का यह काम है और रेल वालों को कहा जाए तो कहते हैं कि आर० एम० एस० वालों का काम है। इन दोनों विभागों का सम्पर्क ही नहीं हो पाता है। अगर इन दोनों में सम्पर्क नहीं होता है और इस तरह से खींचातानी चलती है तो आप अपना डिब्बा ले कर अलग हो जायें और अपना इंजिन लगा लें। अगर ऐसा आप नहीं करना चाहते हैं तो आप को सम्पर्क करना पड़ेगा। आप को अपना हिसाब किताब ठीक करना पड़ेगा।

स्टेशन पर जब डाक ले कर ठेले एक तरफ से दूसरी तरफ जाते हैं तो चार चार और पांच पांच लाइनें पार करनी पड़ती हैं। सड़क का थोड़ा सा टुकड़ा है, वह ही नहीं बनाया जा रहा है। इस तरफ भी आप को ध्यान देना चाहिये और सड़क का टुकड़ा बनाना चाहिये।

गांवों के अन्दर जो कर्मचारी जाते हैं, उन के लिए साइकलों का ही इंतजाम नहीं किया जाता है। यह भी होना चाहिये। स्टाफ की भी बहुत शार्टेज है। वहां की पापुलेशन बहुत बढ़ गई है लेकिन कर्मचारियों की संख्या में बहुत ही कम वृद्धि हुई है। जहां पहले वहां पर डेढ़ सौ कर्मचारी काम करते थे वहां आज उन की संख्या पौने बौंसौ ही हुई है जबकि जनसंख्या 33,000 से बढ़ कर डेढ़ लाख हो गई है, छः सात गुना बढ़ गई है। पापुलेशन के हिसाब से कर्मचारियों की संख्या भी बढ़ाई जानी चाहिये ताकि लोगों को अधिक अच्छी सेवा प्रदान की जा सके।

चलते फिरते डाकघर गांवों में और इंडस्ट्रियल एरियाज में जाने चाहियें। वहां इंडस्ट्रियल एरिया बन जाने से आठ दस मील का बह एरिया हो गया है। इस दस मील के एरिया के लिए अगर चलते फिरते

डाकघर चलाये जायें जो शाम के टाइम जा कर लोगों को सुविधायें प्रदान कर सकें तो वह बहुत उत्तम होगा। पूरे फैक्ट्रि एरिया को आप इस तरह से पत्र भी समय पर पहुंचा सकते हैं और उन को डाक की दूसरी सुविधायें भी प्रदान कर सकते हैं।

वहां पर आफिस इतवार को बन्द होता है। जिस तरह से दूसरी जगहों पर आप दफ्तर छुट्टी के दिन भी खोलते हैं वैसे ही इन को यहां भी खोला जाना चाहिये और कर्मचारियों को काम करने का मौका मिलना चाहिये। अगले दिन सबेरे जा कर जब वे देखते हैं तो पूरे के पूरे आफिस को थैलों से भरा हुआ पाते हैं। नाइट में या उन को काम करने दिया जाय या दिन में लेकिन काम उन को करने को कहा जाय ताकि वे काम कर के सेवाओं को चालू रख सकें और जो भी उन का काम है, उस को वे पूरा कर सकें।

आपने राजस्थान के लिए जो प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र है वह सहारनपुर में खोल रखा है। वह आज से पचास साठ साल पहले खोला गया है। एक बड़ादा में भी खोला गया था। मेरा सुझाव है कि हर एक राज्य में एक एक प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र होना जरूरी है। सहारनपुर में केन्द्र तब बना था जब अंग्रेज यहां राज्य करते थे। उन्होंने जैसा सोचा वैसा कर दिया। आप खुद इस पर विचार कर के पापुलेशन के आधार पर तथा कर्मचारियों की सुविधा को दृष्टि में रखते हुए एक एक प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र एक एक राज्य में रखें।

छोटे कर्मचारी जो 50, 60 या 70 रुपया माहवार पाते हैं, उन का तबादला बहुत दूर दूर जगहों पर नहीं किया जाना चाहिये। उन को दो सप्ताह करने पर मजबूर होना पड़े ऐसा नहीं किया जाना चाहिये। उन को उन के ही केन्द्र में, उन के ही मंडल के अधीन, उन के ही राज्य में रखा जाना चाहिए। ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए कि दिल्ली

वाले को सहारनपुर में और सहारनपुर वाले को दिल्ली में भेज दिया जाय। इससे उन को असुविधा होती है।

आप अंग्रेजी में टेलीफोन डायरेक्ट्री निकालते हैं। हिन्दी भाषा भाषी राज्यों के अन्दर आप को हिन्दी में ही निकालनी चाहिये ताकि हिन्दी का कुछ विकास हो सके।

कल्याण समिति की जो सिफारिशें थीं उन पर कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है, न खेल के बारे में जो उस की सिफारिशें थीं कि पन्द्रह सौ रुपये लेकर इन को किया जा सकता है उस को ही लागू किया गया है और न ही क्वार्टरों के बारे में जो थी उस को लागू किया गया है और न कोई और लागू की गई हैं। रेलवे मंत्रालय ने अपने 36 प्रतिशत कर्मचारियों के लिए क्वार्टर बनाये हैं लेकिन आप ने चार प्रतिशत के लिए भी नहीं बनाये हैं। खाने वाले बहुत हैं लेकिन माल कम है। क्वार्टर लेने वाले बहुत ज्यादा हैं लेकिन हैं बिल्कुल ही नगण्य। आप वित्त मंत्री से कह कर और ज्यादा धन इस काम के लिये रखवाने की कृपा करें।

कोटे के अन्दर जो रेस्ट हाउस है वह भी बहुत खराब हालत में है। वहाँ पर आप भी अन्दर चले जायें तो बाहर नहीं आ सकते हैं। खटमलों से वह भरा पड़ा है। आयें बायें उस के खटमल ही खटमल हैं। उस को भी आप को देखना चाहिये।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हाउस में कोरम नहीं है। यह चौथी बार है कि कोरम का सवाल उठाया जा रहा है।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The quorum bell is being rung. Now there is quorum. This is the fourth time that the quorum bell is being rung. I request the hon. Members to maintain the quorum.

Shri Rama Chandra Mallick.

Shri Rama Chandra Mallick (Jai-pur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I must thank you first for this opportunity that has been given to me to speak; and at the same time I wish to congratulate the hon. Minister and the Deputy Minister and their able officers. I visited the I.T.I. factory at Bangalore, the Teleprinter Factory at Madras and the Cable Factory at Roopnarainpur. They are doing very good work and are progressing towards our expectation.

Sir, now I come to the problems of my own State, Orissa. It is observed from the different press conferences held by the Directors of Posts and Telegraphs from time to time that there has been a wide development of Posts and Telegraphs transactions in Orissa. I do feel, Sir, that it is high time that we should raise the status of the Orissa circle and place it in charge of a senior officer like Postmaster-General, who can handle our problems more honourably and efficiently. There have been constant demands from the public, from the press, and in the various Regional Posts and Telegraphs Advisory Committees in this regard. Government have not taken the necessary steps and given due consideration. I however do hope and trust that the hon. Minister will kindly change his views and grant us our legitimate demand to upgrade the status of the existing minor circle to that of a major circle. It is a long-felt need. It should be placed in charge of a senior officer of the rank of Postmaster General for its still better functioning.

I am also extremely glad to learn that a separate telephone revenue account office has been granted to Orissa since 1st April 1963. We wanted the headquarters of this office to be immediately shifted from Calcutta to Cuttack or Bhubaneswar. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether all the offices have gone to Orissa and whether the full department has shifted or not.

[Shri Rama Chandra Mallick.]

In view of the fact that the provision of telephone connections to the public is a profitable proposition to Government attempts should be made to satisfy this demand to the full. But the P. & T. authorities are still unable to meet the high demand of the public adequately so far. It is a fact that a large number of people desirous of having new telephone connections have been waiting for years together, but in vain.

The conversations over telephones are not audible in Orissa, even from one district to another. You know that some of the districts like Mayurbhanj, Koraput, Sambalpur and Sundergarh are thickly populated. There are also dense forests and mountains. So it is very difficult to hear the conversations from Bhubaneswar or Cuttack in that area. I therefore request the authorities to exercise more vigilance in maintaining the system more efficiently.

Coming to the RMS section, I want to stress an important point. The RMS section from Cuttack to Vijayanagaram should run as quickly as it should be for quicker disposal of postal articles in Ganjam and Koraput districts. Furthermore, the RMS section, the major portion of which is running within the state boundary of Orissa, needs to be transferred and kept under the control of the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Cuttack, for its better functioning. I am sorry that people get their postal articles, especially in south Orissa—Ganjam, Koraput, Sambalpur and so on—after a delay of four or five days. The reason is that the dak is first sent to Vijayanagram RMS and from there to Cuttack and then delivered to the local people. The sorters at Vijayanagaram RMS do not know the Oriya language. They therefore send it back to Cuttack. There are so many other difficulties also. I therefore strongly request that these areas of Orissa State should be transferred and kept under the Orissa Circle, which arrangement will be more convenient, more useful and less expensive.

Another point, the shortage of forms in post offices in Orissa, in the rural areas. The problem of shortage of various forms in post offices in Orissa could never be solved by the local authorities. It is quite natural that the day-to-day increase in postal traffic in the State causes heavy demand from time to time. It may not be possible for presses located in far off places like Hyderabad and Calcutta to meet this heavy demand in time and quickly. I therefore suggest the establishment of a departmental press in Cuttack or Bhubaneswar, so that the problem can be solved on a permanent basis in no time.

I have visited many post offices not only in towns but also in rural areas and made enquiries. I am the President of a Postal Employees' Union. I have to say something about the condition of the poor workers in my own State. I have particularly seen the poor branch postmasters in rural areas. In the offices, no money order forms, postcards or envelopes are available. The same is the case in regard to telegraph forms. Even kerosene oil is not available. It is a matter of regret that in this way we are losing revenue. If adequate supplies of these things are kept, people could purchase their requirements of postcards, envelopes etc. and the department also could get revenue.

Another point is about the EDDA and EDDMC. This is a neglected department. These poor employees get only Rs. 22 Rs. 35 or Rs. 40 per month. This is quite insufficient. In the rural areas, they have to go 5, 10 and 15 miles without umbrella and without their formal dress uniform. They have no cycle allowance. I therefore, request that their salary should be increased so that they could have at least two meals a day. This matter is before this august House. I request the Minister to give sympathetic consideration to this request.

The branch post masters and delivery agents are not getting casual

leave and medical leave facilities. The result is that if a man falls sick and cannot attend to his duties, he cannot get his salary for that period. I suggest that they should be entitled to casual leave and medical leave facilities.

I am surprised that these branch postmasters and agents are still not recognised as departmental employees. They are so-called extra-departmental employees. They feel they are not actual employees of the Government who are entitled to the usual facilities granted to government servants, even though the work they do is very important in the villages. A mother may be anxiously waiting for a letter from her son who may be in NEFA or any other border area. When the postman brings an envelope or post-card to her from her son, she feels very happy. Many of the people in the rural areas have not seen any Ministers or officers. But they know the local postman who is rendering a very useful service to them. So I suggest that the case of these workers should be considered sympathetically.

As I said, I am the President of the Union of a locality. I come of poor family. It is my duty to bring the difficulties of these poor workers to the notice of the hon. Minister and seek redress from him. Unless we can do something for this poor section of the people, our country cannot prosper.

We get five hundred rupees per month. How can they live with twenty rupees per month? This matter should be considered very sympathetically.

Another important point I want to submit here for the consideration of the Ministry. As a Member of Parliament I requested the then Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram, about a post office in my village, just one furlong from my own house. That is the oldest post office in the area of my police station. There is a big rice

mill, there is the Orissa Corporation, there are the naib tahsildar's office, gram panchayat headquarters, primary health centre and also a railway station. There is a high school and there are a number of primary schools and other institutions at this place. Therefore, the post office should be a sub-post-office with telephone and telegraph facilities. I got a telegram from our Chief Whip and our Minister here after six days! If this is the experience of Members of Parliament, what will be the difficulty suffered by other people? I therefore strongly suggest that the post office at Barundai should be converted into a sub office with telephone and telegraph facilities.

There is another important point about my constituency. You know, it is such a peculiar place. Some portion is table-land, some portion is forest, and some portion is flood-affected area. You have to go by boat to some of these areas during summer and rainy season. I am referring to Jajpur, Binjarpur, Barchana, Dharamasala, Aul and Patamunda police station areas. Telephone and telegraph communication should be there. Suppose there are floods; any message from these areas will never reach the authorities. So I request that the important post offices should be provided with telephone and telegraph facilities.

श्री बागड़ी (हिसार) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं पांच चार मिनट में अपनी दो तीन बातें आप के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ ।

वैसे तो यह डाक-तार का मुहकमा सत्य नारायण की कथा हो गया है क्योंकि कितना ही कुछ कहो, लेकिन वहां तथास्तु ही रहता है ।

डाक तार विभाग के कर्मचारियों की अवस्था सुधारने के बारे में कांग्रेस वालों ने भी विरोधी पक्ष के मेम्बरों की हां में हां मिलायी है । मैं बड़े अदब के साथ प्रार्थना

[श्री: बागड़ी]

कहेंगे कि हमारी सरकार समाजवाद के बारे में नारा सब से ज्यादा देती है। समाजवाद क्या और कैसा? जब समाजवाद की बात करते हैं तो कहते हैं कि समाजवाद ऐसे थोड़े ही आवेगा, एक दम आवेगा, पर जब कहा जाता है कि समाजवाद के लिए कुछ करो तो कहते हैं "धीरे धीरे"। समाजवाद अपने घर में क्या है? डाक तार का मुहकमा बिल्कुल सरकार का मुहकमा है। इस में समाजवाद कौन लावेगा? जनता जाग्रत हो गयी तो वह लावेगी लेकिन वह क्रान्ति से लावेगी। और सरकार किस तरह समाजवाद ला रही है। एक तरफ ऊंची तनखाहें हैं, अनेकों सुविधायें हैं, आकाश को छूने वाली कोठियां हैं, और दूसरी तरफ कर्मचारी पाताल में पड़े हैं। यह समाजवाद के नाम पर जनता के साथ बड़ा धोखा किया जा रहा है और यह अन्याय है, और जो प्रत्यक्ष रूप में समाजवाद का हनन हो रहा है वह इस डाक तार के मुहकमे में हो रहा है। एक तरफ तो कोठियां हैं और दूसरी तरफ क्वार्टर भी नहीं हैं। कर्मचारियों के लिए पेशाब घर भी नहीं हैं। और कोई सुविधा नहीं है। तनखाहों में कितना अन्तर है।

बरदियां मिलती हैं तो उन को तीन तीन साल पुरानी मिलती हैं जब कि वे सड़ और गल जाती हैं। मैं ने पूछा कि इस का क्या कारण है तो पता चला कि इस का कारण यह है कि इन का ठेका ऐसे लोगों से होता है जो कि गन्दे से गन्दा समान सप्लाई करते हैं। जब यह सामान तीन तीन साल के बाद दिया जाता है तो पुराना और खराब हो ही जाता है, तो कह दिया जाता है कि पुराना हो गया, और इस तरह से उन ठेकेदारों पर लांछन नहीं आता।

इन लोगों को जो पहनने के लिए जूते दिये जाते हैं वे चार चार साल के बाद दिए जाते हैं लेकिन अगर दंड का जूता देना होता है तो फटाफट दे दिया जाता है। यह समाजवाद की व्यवस्था है।

कहा जा रहा है कि डाक तार के मुहकमे ने बड़ी तेजी से तरक्की की है। और मंत्री महोदय को बधाई भी दी जा रही है। लेकिन वर्तमान मंत्री महोदय ने इस मुहकमे का काम लेते ही मनीआर्डर फार्म की कीमत तीन पैसे कर दी। इस कारण लोग इस को तीन पैसे का मुहकमा कहने लगे हैं।

और काम कैसा करते हैं इस का मैं उदाहरण आप के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। इस मुहकमे की जहनियत गुलामाना जहनियत हो गया है। गोआ से एक राजनीतिक पार्टी के नेता श्री दिवाकर ककोडकर ने एक तार डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया के नाम भेजा उस में लिखा था कि अगर शान्तिमय क्रान्ति के द्वारा अगर आप परिवर्तन लाना चाहते हैं तो हम आप का साथ देंगे। हम आप के साथ हैं। तो इस मुहकमे के अफसर ने उस तार को रोक दिया और कह दिया कि यह तार नहीं जा सकता क्योंकि यह कायदे कानून के खिलाफ है। क्योंकि उस में शान्तिमय क्रान्ति की बात कही गयी थी इसलिए शायद उस को रोक दिया, अगर लाठी गोली की बात होती तो शायद उस को न रोक सकते। चीन का प्रधान मंत्री जब हमारे देश पर से उड़ता है तो उस को हमारी सरकार भी नहीं रोक सकती। लेकिन चूंकि उस में शान्तिमय क्रान्ति की बात कही गयी थी इसलिए अफसर ने उसे रोक दिया। तो यह चीज मैं आप की खिदमत में रखना चाहता हूँ।

दूसरे भ्रष्टाचार को दूर करने की बात कही जाती है। आप देखें कि ड्राइवरों के साथ क्या हो रहा है। इस मुहकमे के बर्कशाप के जो इनचार्ज हैं उन के खिलाफ गोलमाल की शिकायत की गयी तो उस की कोई एनक्वायरी नहीं होती। लेकिन एक ड्राइवर को इसलिए मुअत्तिल कर दिया जाता है कि कहा गया कि उस के हाथ से एक एक्सीडेंट हो गया। अदालत ने उस को बरी कर दिया और हुकम दिया कि उस की पूरी तनखाह

मिले। लेकिन अभी तक तनखाह नहीं मिली। और वह लटक रहा है। तो इस तरह से प्रष्टाचार खत्म किया जाता है।

चौथी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि डाक और तार का विभाग जनता की जवान होता है। आप देखें कि किसी भी देश में दूसरे देश की भाषा में इस विभाग का काम नहीं होता। लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान के हिन्दी भाषी इलाकों में आज भी अंग्रेजी के टेलीप्रिटर चल रहे हैं। इन को हटाने की बार बार मांग की गयी लेकिन हटाया नहीं गया।

**श्रीमती यशोदा रेड्डी :** जो भाषा लोक समझते नहीं उस को चलाने से क्या फायदा ?

**श्री बागड़ी :** मैं हिन्दी भाषी क्षेत्रों की बात कर रहा हूँ, अहिन्दी भाषी क्षेत्रों की नहीं। मैं मंत्री महोदय से अर्ज करूंगा कि हिन्दी भाषी क्षेत्रों से अंग्रेजी के टेलीप्रिटर हटा दिए जाएं, जनता जाग्रत हो चुकी है। अगर नहीं हटाए गए तो शायद वह अंग्रेजी के इन टेलीप्रिटरों को तोड़ दे और आम जनता इस का स्वागत करेगी। मैं कहता हूँ कि ऐसा हो इस के पहले ही इन को हटा दिया जाए।

**श्री धुलेश्वर मीना (उदपुर) :** आदरणीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस संचार मन्त्रालय के कर्मचारियों को अपनी ओर से हार्दिक धन्यवाद देता हूँ जिन्होंने देश की खातिर बहुत सहायता दी और समय निकाल कर देश के लिए फण्ड में पैसा एकत्र किया।

जब से यह मन्त्रालय ट्रांसपोर्ट और कम्युनिकेशन से अलाहिदा होकर काम कर रहा है तब से इसने बहुत अच्छी प्रगति की है। लेकिन यह नहीं मानना चाहिए कि जो कुछ भी कार्य तार और डाक विभाग में हुआ है या हो रहा है वह बहुत ही सन्तोषप्रद है। मैं आपकी आज्ञा से माननीय मन्त्री जी का ध्यान राजस्थान की स्टेट की ओर दिलाया चाहता हूँ, जिसकी ओर श्री माणिक्य लाल वर्मा जी ने भी सरकार का ध्यान दिलाया है। राजस्थान

का पश्चिमी हिस्सा जो कि पाकिस्तान से मिलता है वहां पर 100 मील के फासले पर कोई भी आपके डाक या तार विभाग का केन्द्र नहीं है। वहां पर इस प्रकार की कोई सुविधा नहीं है कि आप को आदेशों सूचना बहुत जल्द मिल सके। राजस्थान के उस रेगिस्तानी एरिया में जहां पर मनुष्य तो क्या पशु, पक्षी तक भी नहीं मिल पाता है ऐसे स्थान पर पाकिस्तान द्वारा भारत पर सम्भावित आक्रमण को रोकने और उसका मुकाबला करने के लिए हमने राजस्थान की सीमा पर जो आर० ए० सी० बटालियन रखी हुई है, हमारे वह जवान एक, एक साल से अपने घर का मुंह नहीं देख पाये हैं। अब ऐसी जगह पर भी यदि डाक और तार विभाग की व्यवस्था न हो, वहां इस सेवा का कोई भी केन्द्र न हो तो वह किस प्रकार अपना जीवन व्यतीत कर सकते हैं ? इसलिए मेरा आग्रह है कि वहां पर डाक और तार विभाग की व्यवस्था स्थापित करने की ओर शीघ्र से शीघ्र ध्यान दिया जाये। सबसे पहले मन्त्री महोदय का ध्यान इस ओर जाना चाहिए।

मैं खास कर अपने निर्वाचन क्षेत्र की ओर ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि मैं एक ऐसे क्षेत्र से आ रहा हूँ जहां पर कि डाक और तार का बहुत ही कम विकास हुआ है। मैंने इस सम्बन्ध में सम्बन्धित अधिकारियों को कई एक बार लिखा है और उनसे व्यक्तिगत रूप से भी मैं मिला हूँ लेकिन आज तक उस पर कोई भी कार्यवाही नहीं की गई है। उदाहरण के लिए मैं आपको बतलाऊं कि उदपुर डिवीजन में बांसवाड़ा और डूंगरपुर यह दो डिस्ट्रिक्ट हैड क्वार्टर हैं लेकिन आज तक वहां प्राइवेट मकानों को किराये पर लेकर उनके अन्दर पोस्ट एण्ड टेलीग्राफ के कार्यालय चल रहे हैं। ऐसे स्थानों पर जहां ब्लाक डेवेलपमेंट आफिस, कालिजेज और हायर सेकंडरी स्कूल चलते हैं...

**श्री हुकम खन्ड कछवाय :** हाउस में कोरम नहीं है।



**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The quorum bell is being rung.—Now there is quorum.

श्री घुले वर मं.ना : श्रीमन्, मैं आप से निवेदन कर रहा था कि ऐसे डिस्ट्रिक्ट हैड क्वार्टर पर जहां कि कालिजेज, हायर सैकेंडरी स्कूल्स और ब्लाक डेवलपमेंट आफिस वगैरह चलते हैं ऐसी जगहों पर इस प्रकार से एक प्राइवेट मकान को किराये पर लेकर डाक और तार सर्विस का कार्य चले और वह भी एक, एक कमरे में, जिसमें कि पोस्ट मास्टर का परिवार भी रहता है और उसी में डाक और टेलीफोन का काम चलता है, यह व्यवस्था नितान्त अपर्याप्त और असुविधाजनक है। इन डिस्ट्रिक्ट हैड क्वार्टर के अलावा और भी ऐसे डिस्ट्रिक्ट हैड क्वार्टर हैं जहां कि इस तरह की कई असुविधाएं विद्यमान हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि मन्त्रालय इधर ध्यान दे और ऐसी जगहों पर पोस्ट आफिसेज खोले जहां कि आवश्यक सुविधाएं प्राप्य हों। इस तरह से एक, एक कमरे में और वह भी प्राइवेट किराये पर लेकर उन्हें न खोला जाय अपितु सरकार उनके लिए अलग से स्थान बना कर उसमें खोले।

मैं अपने निर्वाचन क्षेत्र की ओर जो कि एक आदिवासी इलाका है उसकी ओर आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ। एक तहसील दूसरे तहसील के हैडक्वार्टर तक डाक को पहुंचाने में काफी समय अभी लगता है, अभी पांच दिन से पहले कोई भी डाक नहीं पहुंच पाती है। इसके लिए मैंने कई बार लिखा और इस बारे में अन्य लोगों से रिप्रेजेंटेशन भी भिजवाया लेकिन अभी इसको ठीक करने और डाक को जल्दी पहुंचाने के लिए कोई कदम सरकार की ओर से नहीं उठाया गया है। अब डाक आदि की असुविधा हमारे प्राणीण लोग तो सहन भी कर लेते हैं लेकिन फौज के अन्दर भरती होने वाले हमारे जवान जो कि एक, दो दिन की छुट्टी में आते हैं और बहुत जल्द उनको अपनी यूनिट में पहुंचाना पड़ता है उनको जब तीन, तीन और चार, चार दिन के बाद टेली-

ग्राम मिलता है तो उन्हें बहुत परेशानी अनुभव होती है और उन्हें एक नाराजगी का भाव पैदा होता है। इसके अलावा डाक के इस तरह से देर में पहुंचने से हायर सैकेंडरी स्कूल्स के चलने में और दूसरे जो सरकारी दफ्तर चलते हैं उन के काम में बहुत असुविधा और दिक्कत पैदा होती है।

इसके अलावा मैं आप से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जो भी पोस्ट आफिस में कर्मचारी हैं उनकी संख्या अधिक बढ़ाई जाय। आजकल गांवों के जो ब्रांच पोस्ट आफिसेज खले हैं वहां से दूसरे हैडक्वार्टर के लिए जो शीटिंग होती है तो उसके लिए वहां पर और दूसरे हैडक्वार्टर पर एक ही पोस्ट मास्टर होता है और उसे ही पोस्ट आफिस के सारे कार्य अंजाम देने पड़ते हैं। वह बेचारा श्रोवर टाइम लगा कर भी काम करे तब भी उस काम को पूरा नहीं कर पाता है। इसलिए मेहरबानी करके डाक कर्मचारियों की संख्या अवश्य बढ़ाई जाये। एक ही आदमी शीटिंग और दूसरा डाकखाने का काम नहीं कर सकता है इसलिए जिला हैडक्वार्टर के पोस्ट आफिसेज में कम से कम दो, तीन पोस्ट मास्टर्स हों ताकि डाकखाने का सारा काम सुचारु रूप से सम्पन्न हो सके।

इसके अलावा आज गांवों के अन्दर तहसील हैड क्वार्टर्स से जब रनर्स पोस्टमैन डाक लेकर जाते हैं तो वे पैदल जाते हैं और उनको कम से कम २०-२५ मील पैदल चलना पड़ता है। आपके डिपार्टमेंट की तरफ से उनके लिए साइकिल का प्राविजन किया गया है लेकिन मैंने आज तक कहीं यह नहीं देखा कि इन्हें डाक बांटने के लिए साइकिलें दी गई हों। इसलिए इस बात की आवश्यकता है कि जल्द से जल्द गांवों में उन रनर्स पोस्टमैन को पत्र बांटने के लिए साइकिलों की सहूलियत प्रदान की जाये।

एक साल पहले मैंने मन्त्री महोदय को उदयपुर में नाथद्वारा एक प्रसिद्ध तीर्थ स्थान है वहां पर एक टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज खोलने के

लिए लिखा था। नाथद्वारा एक बहुत बड़ा तीर्थ स्थान है और मैंने उनको लिखा था कि वहाँ पर एक टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज के खोलने की बहुत आवश्यकता है क्योंकि जितने भी टेलीफोन और ट्रंक कोल करने होते हैं वे सीधे उदयपुर से करने के बाद फिर नाथद्वारा ट्रंक होते हैं इसलिए वहाँ पर एक्सचेंज का होना आवश्यक है। वहाँ पर काफी जनसंख्या है। इसके लिए मैंने टेलीग्राफ और टेलीफोन डाइरेक्टर को लिखा था तो उनका जवाब यह मिला कि वहाँ उसके लिए उतनी आवश्यकता आवादी नहीं है और चूँकि इतना कंजम्पशन नहीं हो पाता है इस लिए वहाँ पर टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज आफिस नहीं खोला जा सकता है लेकिन जब मैंने पर्सनली जाकर उनसे बातचीत की और सम्बन्धित अधिकारियों को मौके पर ले जा कर दिखाया और बतलाया तो वह सन्तुष्ट हो गये थे। मैं चाहता हूँ वहाँ पर जल्दी से जल्दी टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज खुल जाना चाहिए।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि आपने मुझे इस अवसर पर बोलने का समय दिया।

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I will call the Minister at 3.52. Dr. M. S. Aney.

**Dr. M. S. Aney (Nagpur):** The Department of Communications, particularly the Posts and Telegraphs Department, is one of the departments which have to be run on commercial lines. Railways and posts and telegraphs are the two big commercial concerns which have been run by the Government of India for a number of years. Long before the cry of nationalisation was heard, these departments were run by the Government, and therefore, there is a particular system under which the revenues of these departments have to be accounted for.

If it is a commercial department, it is supposed that it should produce some profit, and also make some con-

tribution to the general revenues. The rules of the railway convention are known, but the convention under which this dividend is to be paid to general revenues by the Posts and Telegraphs Department is not generally known to the public. I, therefore, particularly bring to the notice of the House what is written at page 18 of the Demands for Grants of the Department of Communications, paragraph 104, or rather Demand No. 104. It says:

"Provision is made in this Demand for the payment of dividend to general revenues on the capital-at-charge and appropriation of the surplus on the working of the Posts and Telegraphs Service to the Reserve Funds of the Department."

This is the general rule, but what is being done this year is given now:

"The surplus earnings of the Department after payment of contribution to the Renewal Reserve Fund and dividend to the general revenues is transferred to the Development Fund and/or the Revenue Reserve Fund of the Department. No surplus is likely to accrue either this year or next year after the payment of the agreed dividend to general revenues which accounts for the absence of any provision for contribution to the two Funds referred to above."

This means that the amounts to be given to these two funds as a matter of course under the arrangement which existed, were by special agreement this year transferred completely to the general revenues. These two funds are very important not only for the proper working of the Department, but even from the point of view of the large number of employees of the Department, but no provision has been made for them. Thus, they have got a surplus of more than Rs. 3 crores for the general revenues from this source. The surplus of Rs. 10

[Dr. M. S. Aney]

crores in the General Budget is one of the great points on which the Finance Minister was congratulated by the whole House. I also join in that, but that is an imaginary surplus, because what should have been reserved for some other funds has been taken away and put in general revenues, and in this way a surplus has been shown. Virtually it is not a surplus at all. If these things had been done properly, there would have been a deficit. That is the position of our finances today. Anyhow, I have brought this particularly to the notice of the House to show that what appears on the surface should be taken with a good deal of caution and it would have been much better if this surplus had not been shown at all, on the basis of which the burden of taxation has been lessened.

There seems to be a change which the Postal Department intends to bring about this year, and in this connection I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister the grievance of the employees of the Central Postal Circle of which the headquarters is at Nagpur. The idea seems to be to remove that circle from Nagpur to Bhopal. On this point, my submission is this. The Government of India, for the sake of administrative convenience, brought about certain changes. I do not think they have done the right to take away Berar and Durg Districts from Madhya Pradesh and add them on to Maharashtra against the will of the people there. Anyhow, having done that, it was practically understood that all the Central departments which were located at Nagpur would be allowed to continue there, because otherwise the importance of the city of Nagpur would diminish and the people there will be affected by it. But, after the States were reorganised in that way, gradually the process of removing the Central departments has begun, and now the P&T circle at Nagpur is to be removed from that place.

There are two representations which have already been submitted to the Minister of Communications. I do not want to read the whole of it, but shall read a few extracts to show what the position is. The representation says:

"On behalf of the P&T employees of Nagpur Region in general, I would most humbly like to place before your honour the following few lines for your sympathetic consideration . . .

"The entire P&T employees of Nagpur Region desire that the P&T Circle at Nagpur should be retained under the administrative control of D.P.T. Nagpur (Minor Sub Circle) having a territorial jurisdiction over the P&T Offices of the eight districts of Nagpur Region."

Naturally, the people of Bhopal feel that having got a separate State for themselves, why should they not have a separate postal division. Therefore, on account of pressure brought from them, and on account of the indifference of the Maharashtra Government to protect the interests of the people of Vidarbha who have been tagged on to them, the position is that the Government of India is gradually yielding on this point and gradually removing these offices.

The representation further points out:

"It has been strongly rumoured that the question of formation of a separate P & T Circle for Madhya Pradesh out of the present Central Office is under the active consideration at the P & T Directorate, New Delhi."

I do not want to read the whole thing. I only want to say that it is a representation under the signature of the Mayor of Nagpur. I do not want to go in detail into their grievance, but my only submission is that this step would result in a mistake.

There is no proper arrangement, proper accommodation at Bhopal. If the people are transferred there, they do not know where and how to live. All this should be looked into. Therefore, my submission is that they should consider this matter very carefully taking into confidence the people of Nagpur and the representatives of this union, and see if this new arrangement is at all absolutely necessary, if a new division for Madhya Pradesh cannot be created at Bhopal without giving rise to these grievances to the employees at Nagpur, or, alternatively a new circle may be created for the eight districts of Nagpur, with its office at Nagpur.

We heard a very eloquent speech from the Defence Minister yesterday, but I wish to point out that so far as the emergency is concerned, there is absolutely no provision made. In 1963-64 expenditure of the Department of Communications connected with national emergency, civil defence, was Rs. 798. In the Budget for 1964-65 a sum of Rs. 2,000 was provided. But nothing is provided in this year's budget for 1965-66. Do the Government think that there is no necessity of making any provision for expenditure connected with national emergency? There is a complete lack of consciousness of the emergency in which we are living, in the Government departments, a complete lack of understanding of the gathering storms. If that is the case, how can they expect the people to have a sense of emergency?

15 hrs.

With these remarks I hope that the few points that I have brought to the notice of the Government will be carefully considered.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Basumatari.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप को बख़्तवादी चाहता हूँ। इस समय हाउस में कोरम नहीं है।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now there is quorum.

Shri Basumatari (Goalpara): At the outset, I must congratulate the hon. Minister . . . (*Interruptions*). This department is a very important department in the modern world. We cannot run the administration in a modern country without communications. Many hon. Members, especially Mr. Daji, criticised very vehemently the working of this Ministry. While so criticising, they should also understand the difficulties and human failures in running a department. There may be some failures but we must see the overall picture. While talking of communications, we must see how to give facilities to all the corners of our country, especially areas about which the hon. Member from Madhya Pradesh and also from Rajasthan spoke. The Bangalore telephones factory is remarkably run and production is made but we have not been able to meet all the needs. The demand for telegraphs and post offices had increased but while considering these demands we must first consider the demands of the backward areas . . . (*An Hon. Member: Assam*) . . . yes, Assam is quite different from the other States; it is a strategic State. Everybody knows what difficulties we ran into when China attacked us there. When we had been in NEFA, the complaint that we heard from various section of people including our military was the non-availability of telegraph, telephone and wireless communications. Therefore, when the emergency came, they could not contact. That was one of the reasons responsible for the debacles in NEFA—want of communication facilities. The hon. Minister Shri Satya Narayan Sinha is not only responsible for this Ministry and administration of overseas communication but he is also

[Shri Basumatari]

the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the entire failures or inefficiency should be set right by him. Therefore, I hope he will see and think seriously about developing the department and improving the communication facilities by increasing efficiency.

Now, coming to my State, last time also I referred to the want of telephone and telegraph facilities and such other amenities. I come from an area which is only three or four miles from the border area. It is a very important area from strategic point of view as the House knows. Telephone and telegraph facilities are not available there. I am not criticising, but submitting to our Minister. Generally people in these areas are backward and economically poor. According to the rules of the P&T department, if some area wants a post office, they have to pay in advance a certain amount and also bear the administrative expenditure for some years, on runners, peons, postmasters and all that. The poor people could not pay that much money. My submission to the Minister, therefore, is that in tribal areas, he should consider some special relaxations so that they may be exempted from payment of this expenditure. I have been trying to just have a public phone in my constituency; it is only a few miles distant from the public call office. I am a member of the P&T advisory Board and I have been making this request. Still it has not been granted to us. They say the distance is not favourable and it must be a paying proposition. Until and unless it is installed, how can you determine the revenue. I do not think it is the proper way of doing things. I myself established so many post offices in my area, not only in my constituency but in the other tribal areas also, where they had to pay for 5 to 7 years or even 10 years for the establishment expenditure of these post offices. I am speaking of the British times. But even now, when our country is an independent with a

national Government, if the tribal people are asked to pay in the same old way, I do not think it is doing justice, the tribal people could not come to enjoy these facilities of communications unless there is sympathetic consideration. The hon. Minister should think about this matter so that the tribal and backward areas may get some special consideration.

Assam is a strategic zone. I have been saying this all along. When you think of Assam in terms of state, I do not think in the time of emergency you can face the situation. I do not know whether our hon. Minister knows the place called Darravga the Bhutan border from where China wanted to come to attack Assam. But our Deputy Minister knows it very well. There is no telegraph office nor a public call office. I do not know whether the army people have established some of these offices there by now. But we should not always depend upon the army for these things. We should depend upon our own department. I am glad that such an important department is run by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. I request that he should consider specially the problems of the tribal people in this regard and department run efficiently.

श्री ह० च० सोय (सिंहभूम): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस मन्त्रालय की ओर से जो दो पुस्तिकाएँ प्रकाशित हुई हैं, उनमें से अगर सब कहूँ तो एक को तो मैं बिल्कुल समझा ही नहीं। उसमें टेली कम्युनिकेशन, टेलीप्रिंटर्स और भी कई तरह की सर्विसेज का जिक्र आया है अगर वह हिन्दी में भी तो तब भी मैं उसे समझ नहीं सकूँगा। इसलिए मेरी मन्त्री महोदय से यह दरखास्त है कि हमारे जैसे औसत दर्जे के शिक्षित व्यक्ति भी जब उसे नहीं समझ सके तब आम जनता का तो कहना ही क्या है और इसलिए उन्हें ऐसा कुछ इन्तज़ाम करना चाहिए कि उनके डिपार्टमेंट की जो जिम्मेदारियाँ हैं और जो कि तकनीकी चीजों से

सम्बन्धित हैं उनके सम्बन्ध में वे कुछ जानकारी अवश्य दिलायें और इस रीति से दिलायें ताकि हम लोग आसानी से उसे समझ सकें ।

दूसरी पुस्तिका जिसको कि मैं थोड़ा, बहुत समझ सका उसका सम्बन्ध पोस्ट एण्ड टेलीग्राफ से है । मैं मन्त्री महोदय को इसके लिए बधाई देना चाहता हूँ जो उन्होंने तृतीय पंचवर्षीय योजना में 23,000 नये पोस्ट आफिस खोलने का संकल्प किया है उसमें वे बहुत हद तक सफल हुए हैं । उन्होंने कहा है कि 1964 के पूरा होने तक 17,009 खुल गये हैं और बाकी और भी खुल जायेंगे । मैं इसलिए और भी उन्हें बधाई देना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि मेरे गांव में जो कि रेलहेड से 40 मील दूर है 6 महीने पहले वहां पर पोस्ट आफिस खल गया है । लेकिन मैं उनका ध्यान इस ओर अवश्य दिलाऊंगा कि अभी भी ऐसे इलाक़े पड़ चुके हैं जैसे कि मेरे जिले में गुदड़ी, सोड़ाई, आनन्दपुर आदि जंगलों में 20, 20 और 40, 40 मील के भीतर कोई पोस्ट आफिस नहीं है । मैं उनसे दरखास्त करूंगा कि हर एक पो० टी० सक्ति के उच्च अधिकारी से वह इस बात की जानकारी लें और ऐसे दूर पहाड़ी इलाक़े जहां पोस्ट आफिस की व्यवस्था नहीं है, पोस्ट आफिस को कभो है, वहां पर खुलवाने के लिए वे अबिलम्ब कदम उठावें । मैं आशा करूंगा कि चौथी पंचवर्षीय योजना में इस बात को व्यवस्था हो जायेगी और जिन इलाकों को अभी भी पोस्ट आफिस की सुविधा नहीं मिली है वहां इस के लिए अवश्य इन्तजाम हो जायगा ।

एक चीज मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से और दरखास्त करूंगा कि इंटोरियर में दूर जो नये पोस्ट आफिस खुले हैं उनका काम पार्ट-टाइम पोस्ट मास्टर्स के द्वारा होता है । मुझे यह देख कर हैरानी होती है कि उनकी तनख्वाह सिर्फ 22 रुपये माहवार है । जब चारों ओर महंगाई का जार है और लांग अपने वेतनों में महंगाई के कारण बढ़ोतरी करने की मांग कर रहे हैं तब यह बड़े ताज्जुब की बात है कि उनसे

सिर्फ 22 रुपये माहवार पर काम चलवाया जा रहा है । मैं मन्त्री महोदय से निवेदन करूंगा कि वे इस 22 रुपये को डबल कर दें, वरना जिस तरीके से केन्द्रीय सरकार के कर्मचारियों को महंगाई भत्ता मिल रहा है उसी तरह से उन्हें भी वह महंगाई भत्ता दिया जाय । पार्ट टाइम जरूर है पर सभी जिम्मेवारों है और हर रोज की हाजरी जरूरी है ।

जो पोस्ट एंड टेलीग्राफ विभाग के कर्मचारी हैं उन्होंने ने चन्दे आदि आदि करके सभाएं आदि कर के अपनी देशभक्ति का बहुत अच्छे तरीके से परिचय दिया है और यह सचमुच में सराहनीय है । इसलिये मैं चाहता हूँ कि कम से कम मेरे क्षेत्र में तो इतना कर ही दिया जाय, जैसे मैं सभी जगह के लिए यह व्यवस्था चाहूंगा कि जब पोस्ट एंड टेलीग्राफ के विभाग के कर्मचारी बीमार पड़ें तो जिस तरह से राज्य के कर्मचारियों को स्थानीय अस्पतालों में इलाज की सुविधा मिलती है, रियायती दर पर उन्हें दवाएं आदि मिलती हैं वही सुविधा इन लोगों को भी सुलभ की जाए । अभी उन को यह सुविधा नहीं मिलती है । मैं इस बारे में निवेदन करूंगा कि जिस तरह से राज्य सरकार के कर्मचारियों को बीमार पड़ने के मौके पर दवाओं और इलाज आदि की सुविधा मिलती है वही सुविधा डाक और तार के मुहकमे के लोगों को भी मिले ।

पोस्ट एंड टेलीग्राफ विभाग के कर्मचारियों के रहने के वास्ते मकानों की सुविधा मौजूद नहीं है और आवास के बारे में उन्हें बहुत कठिनाई का सामना करना पड़ता है । भले ही उन के लिए सुन्दर मकान न बनाये जायें, लेकिन जहां उन के लिए मकान बनाये जा सकते हैं, लकड़ी और अन्य आवश्यक इमारती सामान मिल सकता है, भले ही वह मकान बनाने की आवश्यक सामग्री बहुत अच्छी न हो तो भी उन कर्मचारियों के लिए मंत्रालय वहां पर मकान बनवा दे ताकि उन की आवास सम्बन्धी कठिनाई हल हो जाय । मैं

[श्री ह० च० सोय]

आशा करता हूँ कि इस सम्बन्ध में मिनिस्टर साहब का ध्यान जायेगा।

अन्त में मैं मिनिस्टर साहब को उन के विभाग में जो प्रगति हुई है उस के लिए धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

जैसा कि एक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा था मैं भी चाहूँगा कि कम से कम यह व्यवस्था हो जाय कि हर एक डेवलेपमेंट ब्लाक सेक्टर में एक टेलीफोन और टेलीग्राफ आफिस की व्यवस्था हो जाय।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हम लोग जानते हैं कि ब्लाक अधिकारियों को अपने सम्बद्ध इलाकों का विकास आदि करने के लिए सबडिवीजन के अधिकारियों से सम्बन्ध स्थापित करना होता है, कितनी तरह की उन से पूछताछ करनी होती है या सलाह लेनी होती है इसलिए चौथी पंचवर्षीय योजना में कम से कम यह इंतजाम हो जाय कि हर एक ब्लाक हैडक्वार्टर पर एक टेलीफोन और एक टेलीग्राफ आफिस को व्यवस्था हो जाय।

अब मैं कुछ अपनी व्यक्तिगत बात पर आता हूँ। सन् 1963 में यहाँ 30-ए० अतुल भुव, मेरे दिल्ली निवास स्थान पर टेलीफोन नम्बर 46474 लगा था। तीन महीने के बाद जब मेरे पास टेलीफोन का 440 रुपये का बिल आया तो मुझे बड़ी हैरानी हुई क्योंकि मैं ने इस अर्स में कोई ट्रंक काल किया ही नहीं था लेकिन ट्रंक काल के नाम पर मुझे 440 रुपये का बिल पेमेंट के लिए भेज दिया गया। मैं ने इस पर टेलीफोन के सम्बन्धित अधिकारियों को पत्र लिखा और उन्हें बतलाया कि मैं ने कभी कोई ट्रंक काल नहीं किया फिर यह इतना बिल मेरे लिए कैसे भेज दिया गया है? मैं ने विभाग को लिखा कि इस का पता लगाया जाय कि आखिर यह किस ने ट्रंक काल किया है? मेरी गैर हाजिरी में किस ने मेरे कमरे को खोल कर यह ट्रंक काल

मेरे टेलीफोन से किया है लेकिन अभी तक उस बारे में मुझे कोई तसल्ल वखश जवाब नहीं मिला है। मैं मिनिस्टर महोदय से विनती करूँगा कि वे इस सम्बन्ध में खोजबीन करायें और मेरी सहायता करें। इस बारे में मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से सहायता चाहूँगा कि वे पर्सनल दिलचस्पी दिखला कर यह पता लगवायें कि आखिर इस तरीके की कौल की चोरियां कौन लोग करते हैं, किस ने यह चोरी की है जिस की वजह से मुझे यह 440 रुपये का दंड भोगना पड़ रहा है। ऐसे बदमाश आदमियों का विभाग पता लगाये और उन को दंडित करे। यह बड़े अंधेर की बात है।

हम अपने बड़े नेताओं की याद को ताजा करने के लिए और उन्हें इज्जत देने के लिए उन के नाम पर डाक टिकट निकालते हैं तो मैं चाहता हूँ कि यह हमारे आदरणीय स्वर्गीय पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू तक ही सीमित न रहे। बल्कि अन्य जो हमारे नेता भोग हो गये हैं उन के नाम पर भी यह डाक टिकट जारी किये जायें।

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, I must congratulate the post and telegraph employees on the wonderful job they have done. At the same time, I do not hesitate to congratulate the new Minister who has behaved so well in all the All-India conferences. I know wherever he went to inaugurate the conferences he has created goodwill, a good industrial relation among the workers. I hope that he will maintain this, and I assure him, as the president of so many all-India unions of the post and telegraph employees, of my warmest co-operation at every stage to better the post and telegraph service.

I must say I would fully agree with what my hon. friend Shri Daji has said about the P & T Board. I do not want to dwell much on it because the time at my disposal is very little. But I must say that there should be some improvement of the P&T Board. When this Board was created, it was supposed to be an autonomous body with full powers, but our experience has shown that this Board is unable to discharge its duties because of certain limitations. I would request the hon. Minister to accept some of the suggestions given by the National Federation of Post and Telegraph employees which are very constructive, and I am sure that the acceptance of these suggestions will definitely improve the working of the Board.

I also feel that more powers should be given to the Member (Staff). I have been pleading in this House from year to year that unless the Member (Staff) is given more powers, it is impossible for him to alleviate the legitimate grievances of the employees. We should not expect that every time the federation officials or the all-India union officials should go and meet the Director-General. If more powers are conferred on the Member (Staff), things could be squared up.

Then I come to another very vital point and that is about the zonal reorganisation scheme. It was introduced about four years ago, and it is nearly four years since the scheme has been working in three zones, and this matter was fully discussed at the annual conferences. I am sorry to say that all the employees unanimously passed a resolution that since the scheme has almost failed it should be abolished. I have a resolution passed by them unanimously requesting the Minister and the Director-General to do away with this, because it has not served the purpose. I am sure if the minister examines this objectively, he will come to the conclusion that this should be done away with.

I come to the question of linemen in class IV. Much has been said in this House previously about the problem of casual labour. Mr. Daji also has referred to it. Government have accepted that the contract system should be abolished and they have also introduced a scheme of decasualisation in railways and other departments. So, I request casual labour should be abolished. Now the P&T department has expanded and I am sure these casual labourers can be converted into regular employees. That will give them more security and in return they will give their best to see that the department improves.

I must also express my concern over the awful conditions of the extra-departmental employees. A committee was appointed at the time of Dr. Subbarayan. They submitted a report which was accepted in some portions. Yet, their condition is so wretched that it produces horror and pity. The minister, with his heart which beats for the common people, will, I am sure, rise to the occasion and see that their condition improves.

Coming to the telephone training allowance, at present it is surprising that the linemen are getting only Rs. 3. It should be increased to Rs. 10. If there is a proper objective discussion, I am sure we will be able to convince the minister and the officials that this deserves consideration.

The house rent allowance of linemen is only Rs. 2. It should be increased to Rs. 10. Is there any place in the country where a house can be had at Rs. 2? Even for sleeping on the foot-path in Delhi, Calcutta and Madras, certain contractors charge 4 to 8 annas per night. They earn money out of the misfortunes of the poor people. I request that this allowance should be increased from Rs. 2 to Rs. 10.

I would also invite his kind attention to the condition of sorters in the RMS. A new system has been



[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

introduced and it has become impossible for the sorters to work smoothly. I have seen how the sorters work in places like Kanpur and Allahabad. Had I been in their place, I would have sent the dak meant for Bombay to Madras or anywhere else. But they have a cool brain and they send the dak to the proper destination.

Coming to the construction of quarters for the employees, I am one with the Federation when they say that some special allotment should be made in the fourth plan for this purpose. In the P&T colonies, hardly 10 per cent of the employees are given quarters. It is high time more funds were allotted for construction of quarters.

About dearness allowance, reference has been made in this House many times before the Finance Minister and other ministers and before Government as a whole that the D. A. of those who in the lower scale-getting Rs. 70 to Rs. 109 and from Rs. 150 to Rs. 209 should be increased. This should be considered. We may say he is not the Finance Minister. But if he pulls his weight properly in the Cabinet, I am sure a decision can be had in favour of these employees.

In conclusion, I request the minister to issue stamps in the name of some persons I am going to suggest. He should agree to issue a stamp in the name of that great Mythili Saran Gupta, who was a great poet and also in the name of Sisir Kumar Bhaduri, who was known as Natya Samrath, who belonged not only to West Bengal, but to the whole of India. I also request that stamps should be issued in the names of renowned artistes and musicians like Vishnu Digambar, D. V. Paluskar and Ustad Faiyaz Khan. I am happy the minister has issued a commemorative stamp for Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi. I hope he will bring out a stamp.

in the name of the late Maulana Haqir Mohani who sacrificed the last days of life in the national cause. I also hope that a stamp in honour of that great politician and poet, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, will be issued very soon.

**Shri Mahesh Dutta Misra** (Khandwa): Sir, at the very outset, I wish to congratulate the minister for having accepted the responsibility of the communications department. I hope he will continue to be the Minister of Communications for some more time, because a great responsibility rests on his shoulders. One of the most essential services in this country is being neglected by the Government agencies as such.

In the beginning, I would like to raise two demands of Madhya Pradesh. One is about the transfer of the office of the central circle from Nagpur to Bhopal. I hope the declaration made by the minister of Bhopal would be implemented that the office should be shifted before July. I hope he will say something in this regard on the floor of the House also. Although I am quite in sympathy with the grievances of the Berar and Nagpur people, I do not want that the solution of their grievances should be made a condition precedent to the transfer of the central circle from Nagpur to Bhopal. I would like that their grievances should be looked into and all possible steps should be taken to satisfy them.

There has been again a complaint from the people of Jabalpur that the Telegraph Workshop, which has shown a good deal of efficiency and output has not been given due encouragement. The need for the expansion of this Telegraph Workshop has been there. There have been suggestions made in the past about it, but the expansion programme has not been implemented.

Now I come to the various suggestions made by Mr. Daji, Mr. Banerjee,

Mr. Pandey and other friends. Although I would like to endorse them all, but I shall not do it in the same language in which Mr. Daji put it, because it makes all the difference when a person speaks as an opposition member or as a member of the treasury benches. Still we agree with the basic demand that the P&T Board should be put on a par with the Railway Board. There are so many discrepancies in the running of this Board without any powers, but with more liabilities. The liabilities which are there in the Railway Board are put on the P&T Board, but the powers, autonomy and initiative have not been granted. I would like to endorse the demand by saying that it should be put on a par with the Railway Board, because P&T is equally important. It is one of the important public undertakings with a commercial bias. So far as the commercial aspect of P&T is concerned, it cannot be left to the wishes or caprices of the Home or Finance Ministry personnel. It has its own needs and it should have all the initiative that it requires. There is a great need for making certain changes in the organisational and administrative set up in the P. & T. Department. I think the need to look after these changes in the P. & T. Department is more important than in other administrative departments. I would like to emphasise on the point that so far as the administrative aspect of the P. & T. is concerned, there should be a committee set up to look into the day-to-day grievances in detail, because when I come into contact with the workers I find that they have certain grievances and most of their grievances are in connection with administrative personnel or the whims and caprices of the bosses.

These are some of the things that are related to the general characteristic of the country as a whole because our administrative machinery—I would like to be a little frank with the administrative set-up in our country—is still dominated by the feudal

spirit of the British Empire. They are still dominated by the impression of *bara saheb*. Therefore, whenever I go to my union friends I tell them that some day they will also become *bara sahebs* and therefore they should not forget that the complaints that they were making against their bosses might crop up against themselves. Therefore, this is a kind of general malaise in the country, this *bara saheb* mentality. But it assumes greater importance as far as the P. & T. Department is concerned, because the workers there are concerned with one of the most essential services for the people, and when grievances from them come and complaints accumulate the whole P.&T. department is defamed. Here, in the House, also occasionally we hear of telegrams, letters and other things not properly looked after. There are delays. Sometimes the newspaper people are also very enthusiastic about publishing certain things, that a post-card took five years or ten years to go from one place to another or that a telegram was delivered after a couple of months. All these things crop up.

But there are only very few such examples. Normally the P & T. Department works quite efficiently and honestly. Let me, Sir, in this House, congratulate the P & T workers that in spite of the distress and difficulties experienced by middle class people in the country due to price rise and various other things and also due to the administrative difficulties, they are working very hard, quite honestly and very efficiently. Therefore, their needs and their grievances assume greater importance and they must be looked into by the Department and also by the Government.

I would like to emphasise only a few points so far as parity with the Railway Board is concerned. First of all, as I said, all the liabilities have been imposed on the P & T Department but not the initiative and autonomy. In matters of revenue reserves

[Shri Mahesh Dutta Misra]

and renewal reserve fund, the P & T Department is treated on the same basis as the Railway Board. They are asked to give the same dividend. The responsibility is the same. So the money must be reserved to be used in the event of any contingency. But, as I said last year, the contingency never arises and the P & T Department has never been found wanting in paying the dividend. Where is the necessity of allocating all the revenue reserves towards this fund? Something must be given back to the P & T Department. When we want to take something, we find so many notes coming from the Finance Ministry and matters are delayed and delay in this particular essential service causes havoc. There is no scope for improvement. We cannot have anything. In the case of staff quarters, against a sum of Rs. 120 crores that was demanded by the Department I am told that only Rs. 40 crores is going to be sanctioned in the Fourth Plan. From this we can understand as to how the Government of India in the Finance Ministry or in the Home Ministry deal with the P & T Department. It is not considered on a par with the Railways because it is not considered as important as the Railways. Therefore, I endorse the demand made by my hon. friends that it should be made completely autonomous and completely on a par with the Railway Board. Unless these powers are given the P & T Department cannot become as efficient as we want it to be.

I will give you only two examples. In matters of break of service the Home Ministry is consulted and without getting the approval from the Home Ministry the P & T Department does not proceed in the matter. Similarly, in cases of re-constitution of cadres—a few cadres—the Finance Ministry is to be consulted. Files are locked up there and they do not come to the P & T Department very easily. Therefore, all the work is held up. This delay in matters of

the P & T Department, as I said, creates havoc. As I said, this is one of the most important reasons why the P & T Department does not work as efficiently as people want it to be. Therefore, in most of these matters where any commercial undertaking would have all initiative and all the powers, the P & T Department is denied initiative and autonomy. It is very necessary, therefore, that looking into the commercial aspect of the thing and looking into the public undertaking aspect of the whole department, all these powers should be given.

Secondly, I would like to emphasise that in a society which wants to go towards a socialist and democratic goal, to achieve a really democratic goal it is necessary that certain healthy traditions are laid in this department. Administrative changes and reforms may not matter much in some other department, but in this particular department administrative changes and reforms cannot brook any delay. Therefore, when you are not giving complete satisfaction to our workers in matters of dearness allowance and other things, at least give them a very healthy and a very democratic set up in which the feudal mentality of the *bara saheb* and bosses would go away and there would be enough of sympathy, humility, liberality and democratic temper shown by officers and they would try to deal with people in such a manner that the democratic socialist goal is achieved at least in the P & T Department.

**Shri Cubbaraman (Madurai):** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for the opportunity you have given me to speak on the Demand for Grants relating to the Ministry of Communications. After persistent and continuous demand the Government agreed to form the P & T Board. Though it has been there for some years it has not been functioning as

it was expected to. I join some of my predecessors who talked about the hardships suffered by the P & T Board. Though it is said to be an autonomous body, its functions are conditioned and limited by other departments like Home and Finance. I would like the hon. Minister to go into the matter and see that the P. & T. Board functions as an autonomous body as the Railway Board.

Housing quarters are most important for any worker. Unless the workers have got good accommodation their efficiency is very much affected. When we have got nearly one-third of the railway workers being accommodated in good quarters as far as the P. & T. workers are concerned not even 5 per cent of them have been provided with quarters. The allotment set apart for accommodation or constructing quarters is very low. It should be increased. Especially in big cities like Bombay and other places the workers find it very difficult to get houses at reasonable rent. Though it may not be possible to invest large amounts on construction of houses I would like to suggest that in those places 50 acres to 100 acres of land may be purchased and houses may be constructed as and when funds are available. Anyhow I would request the Government to raise the amount set apart for housing and build as many houses as possible.

15.39 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*].

I would like to place before the hon. Minister some important points. In Tamilnad as we all know, one of the reasons for anti-Hindi agitation was that post-cards, money order forms etc. are printed in Hindi. Sometimes, English is also added to Hindi. But that is not enough. Until a few years back, these forms were available in Tamil. So, I would request that money order forms, post-cards and other forms should be printed in the language of the region. If necessary, English and Hindi may

be added along with the regional language.

**An hon. Member:** That is not possible.

**Shri Subbaraman:** If that is not possible, the language of the originating place should be there in money order forms and post-cards.

Then, even though the availability of forms has improved somewhat of late, the position is still not quite satisfactory. In some of the small post offices even now forms are not available when people ask for them. I hope that will be attended to.

Though there is a great demand for telephones, the supply position is not satisfactory. To meet the increasing demand, telephone equipments and cables should be manufactured in larger numbers.

Whenever we do not get the number we want when we dial we complain to telephone No. 191 or some such number. Then we are referred to some other number. Even when we refer to that number many times we do not get a satisfactory reply. In order to avoid inconvenience to the public these things should be properly attended to.

Also, in big cities like Madurai, coin phones may be fixed at the railway stations and central bus-stands.

I have one more point of local importance to make. Madurai is a big city and junction. The RMS office at Madurai junction is a very small and crowded one. Though it served its purpose well some years back, now that its activities have expanded the place looks very cramped and that office is not able to function properly. I would request the Department to construct a separate building for RMS or ask the railway authorities to give them more spacious accommodation.

With these words, I support the Demand for Grants relating to this Ministry.

**श्री शिव नारायण (वांसी) :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, हम लोग कॅरम पूरा करते हैं, हम को भी मौका मिलना चाहिये ।

**श्रीमती सुभद्रा जोशी (बलरामपुर) :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, आज जिस मंत्रालय की प्रान्टस के ऊपर बहस हो रही है उस का खास महत्व इस लिए भी है कि यह हमारी नैशन-लाइज्ड सर्विसेज में से है । सरकार की पालिसी से, नीति से, तो जनता का सम्पर्क कम पड़ता है लेकिन यह जो रोजमर्रा के काम होते हैं, उन से जनता का बहुत काम पड़ता है । उन की हालत में आप को बतलाना चाहती हूँ । उन की हालत काफी खराब है । टेलीफोन मिलने में इन्हीं तकलीफ होती है जिस का ठिकाना नहीं है । यहां पर मैं टेलीफोन कनेक्शन्स की बात नहीं कह रही हूँ, टेलीफोन मिलाने की बात कह रही हूँ । अगर आप कहीं से टेलीफोन मिलाना चाहें तो कहीं और से मिल जाता है । कई बार जिन से हम मिलाना चाहते हैं उन से तो नहीं, ही मिलता दूसरों की आपस में की हुई बात हम ज्यादा सुनते हैं । कई दफे ऐसा होता है कि ट्रंक काल नहीं मिलती । एक दफे तो ऐसा हुआ कि टेलीफोन काल ले कर मैं ने दो घंटे तक इंतजार किया उस के बाद कह दिया गया आप की बात चीत हो गई और हमारे यहां यह रिकार्ड हो गया है । मैं ने बार बार प्रार्थना की कि मेरी बात नहीं हुई है पर कोई सुनने को तैयार नहीं है । झट से उन्होंने ने टेलीफोन नीचे रख दिया । आखिर में मैं ने सुपरवाइजर महोदय से कहा तो उन्होंने ने कृपा कर के टेलीफोन मिला कर बात चीत कराई ।

आप ने कोई 199 का नया तरीका निकाला है । कहा जाता है कि 199 पर डिमान्ड बहुत ज्यादा होती है, इसलिए कोई और नया तरीका निकाला जाये । यह पता ही नहीं लगता है कि वहां कोई आवाज पहुंचती है या नहीं । बंटी करते चले जाओ लेकिन 199

से कोई खबर ही नहीं ली जाती । इसी तरह से अगर कहीं पर कम्प्लेंट कीजिये तो फौरन आवाज आती है कि बी बिल रिंग यू बंक लेकिन आज तक किसी ने दुबारा रिंग नहीं किया है ।

कहने का मतलब यह है कि यह छोटी छोटी चीजें हैं इस तरह की जिन से कंज्यूमर्स को तकलीफ होती है और इस से हमारे पब्लिक सेक्टर की बदनामी होती है । उस के खिलाफ लोगों को शिकायत हो जाती है । मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह प्रार्थना करूंगी कि हमारा यूनियन्स से और एसोसिएशन्स से सम्बन्ध रहता है । मेरा भी कइयों ने सम्बन्ध है । मैं कहना चाहती हूँ कि उन की डिमान्ड्स को सुना जाये और कभी कभी उन को बुला कर यह पूछा जाय कि एफिसिएन्सी किस तरह से बढ़ सकती है । अगर उन की राय इन चीजों पर ली जाये तो मुझे कोई शक नहीं है कि वह इन चीजों के बारे में अच्छी राय दे सकेंगे और सर्विसेज को ठीक करने में मदद दे सकेंगे ।

मैं ने भोपाल में एक मीटिंग अटेंड की जहां माननीय मंत्री महांदय ने एक एक्सचेंज खोला । वहां पर मुझे ईर्ष्या हो रही थी कि गोंडा डिस्ट्रिक्ट की तरफ किसी का ध्यान नहीं जाता । उस इलाके में न सड़कें हैं न और चीजें हैं । इसी तरह से वहां टेलीफोन भी नहीं है । कई दफे कहा गया कि कम से कम जो थाने हैं उन में टेलीफोन जरूर लग जाने चाहिये, लेकिन कई डिस्ट्रिक्ट में थानों में भी टेलीफोन नहीं है । कई दफे दंगे भी हो जाते हैं लेकिन पुलिस को खबर लगने में छः दिन लग जाते हैं । एक जगह एक्सचेंज दो सालों से सैक्शन हुआ पड़ा है, सिर्फ एक इमारत की कमी से, या कमरा न मिलने की वजह से एक्सचेंज इन्स्टाल नहीं हो रहा है आप के तुलसीपुर एरिया में । मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से कहूंगी कि एक बार वहां जा कर वह उस इलाके की सुध बुध तो लें ।

गोंडा एक बहुत ऐतिहासिक जगह हो गई है । अगर गोंडा में उस दिन डिन्टी

एलेक्शन कमिश्नर को टेलीफोन मिल गया होता दिल्ली में तो पिटिशन पर लाखों रुपये खर्च न होते। डिप्टी एलेक्शन कमिश्नर ने कोशिश की गोंडा से कमिश्नर को टेलीफोन करने की, लेकिन उन को टेलीफोन नहीं मिला और लाखों रुपये वहाँ पर पिटिशन में खर्च हो गये जहाँ पर कि एलेक्शन सेट प्रसाइड हुआ। कहने का मतलब यह है कि टेलीफोन की हालत उस इलाके में खास तौर से खराब है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से प्रार्थना करूंगी कि एक दफे वह खुद वहाँ जा कर देखें कि किस तरह से यह हालत सुधर सकती है।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** श्री शिव नारायण कहते हैं कि वह हमेशा कोरम पूरा करते हैं इस लिये उन को मौका मिलना चाहिये।

**श्री शिव नारायण :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप का बड़ा अनुग्रहीत हूँ कि आप ने मुझे मौका दिया। आज प्रातःकाल जब मैं आया और डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब से कहा तो उन्होंने कहा कि मेरा नाम लिस्ट में नहीं है। मैं आप को धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** मैंने आप को मौका दिया तो कछवाय साहब कहते हैं कि उन को भी मौका दिया जाये क्योंकि कोरम का उच्च हमेशा वही करते हैं।

**श्री शिव नारायण :** मैं इस विभाग की सराहना इस लिये करना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान को एकता के सूत्र में बांधने का श्रेय अगर किसी विभाग को प्राप्त है तो वह इस पी० एंड टी० विभाग को है। दूसरी बात यह है कि मैं ने खुद पी० एण्ड टी० विभाग में काम किया है इसलिये मैं यहाँ के रंग व रेशों से अच्छी तरह से वाकिफ हूँ और यहाँ के वर्कर्स की मुसीबतों को भी जाना हूँ।

मैं अपने मिनिस्टर साहब से कहना चाहता हूँ कि बड़े संयोग से वह इस हाउस के चीफ क्लिप भी हैं, इस गवर्नमेंट के सर्वेसर्वा हैं और इन के ही हाथ में यह विभाग आया है।

मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस देश में वे इस विभाग को फलीभूत करें और सुचारु रूप से इस का संचालन करें। जैसा व्यवहार वह यहाँ हमारे साथ करते हैं वैसे ही इस विभाग में काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों के साथ करें।

इस देश में हजारों नहीं, लाखों आदमी इस विभाग में काम करते हैं। उन के काम में बड़ी मेहनत पड़ती है और ईमानदारी की जरूरत होती है। अगर एक पाई का डिफरेंस भी शाम को हो जाये जर्नल मिलाने में तो नौ बजे रात तक कर्मचारी को छुट्टी नहीं मिल सकती। इस विभाग में एक सुपरवाइजर था वह कहा करता था :

“अगर पेटवा क सुख चाहा,  
तो देहियां क दुःख दा और,  
देहिया क सुख चाहा तो,  
पेटवा क दुःख दा।”

वह यह कहता था कि अगर तुम आराक चाहते हो पेट के लिये, खाने के लिये, तो मेहनत करो। वह 600 पेज की किताब रोज लिखवाते थे। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस विभाग का काम भी इसी तरह से चले। यहाँ जो अकाउंट का काम चलता है, जैसे का काम चलता है—मैंने सुना है कि सेविंग बैंक अकाउंट में इस अप्रैल से 4 रु० सैकड़ा इन्टररेस्ट कर दिया गया है—उस के सम्बन्ध में इस गवर्नमेंट को कुछ सजेशन देना चाहता हूँ। आप देश के कोने कोने में स्माल सेविंग का नारा लगाते हैं। अगर आप सेविंग बैंक अकाउंट पर 5 पर सेंट व्याज कर दें, जैसे कि स्टेट बैंक में है, तो आपको बिला प्रयास बहुत पैसा इसमें मिल सकता है जिससे सरकार का काम चल सकता है। आपने 4 पर सेंट कर दिया इसके लिये मैं आप की तारीफ करता हूँ, लेकिन मेरा सुझाव है कि आप इसे 5 परसेंट कर दें। हम लोग भी इससे कस्टमर हैं। मैं सरकार को कांफ्रीट सजेशन देता हूँ जिससे कि सरकार को फायदा हो।

[श्री: शिवनारायण]

ग्राम गांव गांव में ब्लाक बने हुए हैं, इसी तरह आवश्यकता है कि ग्राम पांच पांच बील के फासले पर डाकखाने स्थापित करें। ग्राम गांवों के लोग शहरों में आ कर रिकशा चलाने आदि के अनेक काम करते हैं और अपने घरों को मनीआर्डर भेजते हैं। देहात में डाकखाने की सुविधा बढ़ाने से इन लोगों को बड़ा लाभ होगा।

दूसरी बात मैं भाषा के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ। अगर मनीआर्डर फार्म को अनेक भाषाओं में छापा जाएगा तो यह बहुत बढ़ा हो जाएगा। इसलिए मेरा सुझाव है कि इसको केवल ग्रंथेजी और हिन्दी में रखें, तमाम भाषाओं को इसमें न शामिल करें।

एक बात मैं और आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। पता चला है कि कलकत्ते से एक चिट्ठी इसलिए वापस कर दी गयी और अखबार इसलिए वापस कर दिया गया कि पता ग्रंथेजी में नहीं लिखा था। मैं इस विभाग वालों से अपील करता हूँ कि एक बहुत जिम्मेवारी का काम उनके पास है, उनको इन छोटी छोटी बातों से ऊपर उठ कर काम करना चाहिए और इन चीजों में नहीं उलझना चाहिए। मैं मिनिस्टर और डिप्टी मिनिस्टर साहब से कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस प्रकार की चीजें न हों और जो ऐसा करते हैं उनके खिलाफ कार्रवाई की जाए।

अगर किसी कर्मचारी पर बेजा सख्ती बरती जाती है तो उसकी तरफ भी ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए। मैं एक केस का आपके सामने जिक्र करना चाहता हूँ मैं नाम नहीं बूंगा। एक कर्मचारी ने एक पत्र पढ़ लिया इसके लिए इनचार्ज परेशान है और उस आदमी पर तीन तीन वर्ष से केस चल रहा है। इन बातों की तरफ ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए। कहा गया है :

क्षमा बड़ें को चाहिए, छूटें को उत्पात।  
दो जो बड़े बड़े अफसर हैं या मिनिस्टर हैं

उनको, तथा पी० एम० जी० को और डिप्टी पी० एम० जी० को इन चीजों को देखना चाहिए।

जिस प्रकार की मांग भोपाल वालों ने की है, वह मैं भी करता हूँ। मैं नेपाल की तराई के इलाके का रहने वाला हूँ, वह बारडर का इलाका है। अभी बहिन सुभद्रा जी ने कहा कि गोंडा से टेलीफोन मिलने में बड़ी कठिनाई होती है। वही हाल हमारे इलाके का है। हमको दिल्ली टेलीफोन करने के लिए पहले गोरखपुर से लखनऊ टेलीफोन करना पड़ता है और तब दिल्ली मिलता है। इसमें घंटों वक्त लग जाता है। यह बड़ी दिक्कत है।

टेलीफोन के सम्बन्ध में एक शिकायत और करना चाहता हूँ कि अनेक बार आपरेटर गलत नम्बर मिला देते हैं और हम यहां से जा कर देखते हैं कि गलत नम्बर मिला है। इससे परेशानी होती है। हमको जब टेलीफोन मिलाना होता है तब भी हमने देखा कि कभी कभी गलत नम्बर मिला देते हैं और 199 पर कोई सुनता नहीं है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप इस विभाग को सुचारू रूप में चलाएं और जो काम है उसको ज्यादा अच्छे ढंग से कराने की व्यवस्था करें। हम आपको बताते चलेंगे और आशा करते हैं कि आगे अच्छा काम होगा। और इसका श्रेय आपको मिलेगा।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस विभाग को मांगों का समर्थन करता हूँ।

The Minister of Communications and Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have heard with great attention all the hon. Members who have taken part in this discussion. The House is perhaps aware that this is for the third time that I have come before this House to get the Demands of the Ministry of which I have been in-charge, passed.

On the previous two occasions, it was my good fortune that I received from all sections of the House not only ordinary bouquets but very ornamented bouquets and, if I may say so, perfumed bouquets also. This time I had anticipated that I would receive some brick-bats also.

**Shri Daji:** How can that be?

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** In the case of the Department, big as it is, it is quite natural.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Nobody would throw brick-bat on perfume.

**Shri Daji:** You ought to be in the Opposition.

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** But I must admit that even some brick-bat which has been thrown at me has been done so mildly that I did not feel it hurt. One unique thing has happened. The hon. Member opposite—perhaps I am the Member who is here for the longest time in the House; I make an exception in the case of Dr. Anev—has for the first time thrown some bouquets. It is my very good fortune because he is always critical and even then he has said something good. In my case, the hon. Member has been very kind. It is a unique thing.

**Shri Daji:** Take it with a pinch of salt.

**Mr. Speaker:** He is not doing justice to Dr. Anev because bouquets are never thrown but they are offered.

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** Thank you. I stand corrected.

Sir, I am one of those who always welcome constructive criticism. It is the salt of democracy. What is democracy without criticism? I believe in the old saying of the great saint Kabir :

हिन्दू हिन्दू लखिो प्रांगत कटो लुवाय

"You must have your critics even in your courtyard so that they may always remind you of your failures, of

your shortcomings, of your drawbacks." And they are our best friends, not those who come and play sycophants. They are no good. I may tell you that in democracy we require them but not those who do not see any good and who go on criticising. With regard to such critics, one should not at all be anxious to pay any attention to them. But with regard to a constructive criticism, if it comes from any quarter, a man who is in-charge of any responsible work in democracy should be very particular.

Only one request, if I may make with your permission to the hon. Members of this House is that, by all means, they may criticise but they must also take care to see the background in which a particular Ministry or a particular individual is functioning. The background and its context is very important. I would, therefore, before I come to defend the points which have been raised, make one point particularly in regard to the Department of Telephones about which generally we hear so many complaints from all sides. I am quite conscious of the difficulties that the Members have to face. I have to face the same difficulty sometimes. And you must know that even if I make a call, I never disclose my identity that I am Minister in-charge of Communications. I know the difficulties. But with regard to this particular item, that is, Telephones, I would request the Members to see how this thing happens; and what is our difficulty. In Bombay alone, 20,000 telephones are working since 1924. The life of those instruments is only for 25 years. They became worn out, practically dead, in the year 1949 and still we are trying to whip the dead horse. The design and pattern of the equipment was made for taking four calls per phone per day. But actually they carry a load of 16 calls per phone per day, that is, four times overloading. As regards the duration, the equipment was designed to take the load of each call for 80 to 90 seconds. But actually the holding time is 4½ minutes, that



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is, three times overloading. And all this overloading is on the worn-out equipment whose span of life was over in 1949. You can well imagine what performance you can expect from such instruments. Of course, you can very well say that the only solution is to scrap the whole thing and get new things. We are trying to do it, but it is not so easy to do it overnight. You are aware of the financial stringency that we are passing through. As Shri Daji has said, and to some extent, rightly too, whenever we want to get any project or scheme sanctioned, the Finance Ministry is there. Of course, it is the legitimate duty of the Finance Ministry which it is doing, because it has always to act as a check on the other Ministries. But the Finance Minister also cannot help it, because the overall financial position is known to everybody.

16 hrs.

श्री बागड़ी : खर्चा कम करो ।

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: It is very easy for my hon. friend to say so. But I would like him to consider his own case, because then he will realise the difficulty.

Given the limitations both of volume and of technical equipment and also the natural imperfections of human beings, I beg to submit that the performance of this Department is not bad.

Shri Shinkre (Margao): Not very bad.

श्री बागड़ी : सब से ख़राब है ।

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: That is what I am saying. I do not claim that it is very good. At least I can say that it is somewhat satisfactory. I do not mince matters. I call a spade a spade.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर इंटरफ़ॉन्स कम हों तो खर्चा भी बच जायेगा ।

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I have sent round a small brochure to hon. Members. I do not know whether all of them have cared to go through it, because the other day when I met some hon. Members they said that they had not received it. Perhaps, they do not care to look into the papers which are being sent to them. In that brochure we have given extracts giving the opinion of foreign correspondents and agencies regarding the P. & T. services and the services connected with overseas communications. I would crave the indulgence of the House to mention a few of those extracts; if my hon. friends had cared to go through the brochure, they would have found out that some of the foreign correspondents had paid glowing tributes to our services, regarding them—I am just quoting—as ‘first class service and one of the best seen anywhere in the world’; in another place, the brochure says ‘excellent service’, ‘could not have been better’ and so on. I would like to point out that these foreign correspondents and dignitaries go round the world to various countries and see the functions elsewhere, and, therefore, they have a definite criterion for judging the performance of the P. & T. services in India as compared with those in other countries. I admit that there may be some tributes paid only out of courtesy, but certainly if they had seen defects and had suffered from the deficient working of these services, as some hon. Members here have, then they would have come out with complaints. The mere fact that no complaints were received and only compliments were given by them, I think, goes to show that our services do come up to a satisfactory standard. The people who have come from various countries have compared our services with the services they get in their own countries and then have paid these tributes.

Shri M. R. Krishna (Peddalli): After all, they will have to be generous when they come here.

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** That does not mean that I am self-complacent or that I am indulging in self-praise. I am only trying to highlight what may be lost sight of or underwritten in our mood of criticism to only find out our shortcomings. I am not saying that the Department is perfect and that there is no defect in its performance. There are quite a number of them and they have to be remedied as soon as possible. There is scope and also a need for improvement. I know that some times some people fail to get their telephone call matured or fail to get their letter, or their telegram is not delivered in time, and the individual concerned suffers cent per cent loss on account of that. The plea of a small percentage of defects is no consolation to him. What I want to bring out is that our attainment has been short of our aim at perfection due to some unavoidable reasons. It is not that we must not aim at perfection; that is a thing which everybody should try in all walks of life, and particularly in a Department which has to serve the public.

Ever since I took charge of this Department I have all the time been emphasising that in order to improve matters we must eliminate delays. I have been telling my friends inside and outside the House and elsewhere and all the officers of whichever Ministry has come under my charge that all this talk about *sadachar* and other things will not be able to eliminate the corruption which is prevailing, but nine out of ten cases of corruption will disappear the day delay is eliminated. There is no doubt about it. Delay is the mother of 90 per cent of corruptions. If we try to delay matters, then it breeds corruption, for instance, delay in taking decisions, delay in giving telephone, delay in booking telephones, calls and so on; if you analyse all these things you will find that delay is the mother of 90 per cent of the corruption cases which are prevailing here today.

You will be glad to note that ever since I have taken charge of this Ministry, I have asked my officers to avoid all delays. You would forgive me if I say that I do not keep any file with me for more than 12 hours even; in spite of the fact that I have not been used to this kind of administrative work, and it is a new thing for me, I have still tried my best not to keep any file pending with me for more than 12 hours.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is that the reason for not delaying?

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** I have also asked my officers to give me a return, fortnightly and monthly, showing how many files they have received, how many files are pending, why so many files have not been disposed of and so on, and they have to submit explanations in regard to delays, and the result has been that many old files have started coming out of the archives. It is a fact which I am mentioning. But I would like the House to appreciate the steps taken to avoid delay.

There is one other thing which I should mention. I do not believe very much on this kind of noting and counter-noting and writing notes on the files. I have started discussing matters with the members of the P. & T. Board. My hon. friend Shri Daji has rightly said that the powers of the board should be enhanced. I must say that nobody would be happier than me if the Board would get more powers, but with whatever power it possesses at present, we are working at best possible speed and efficiency. As I have said, every week we meet, sometimes twice a week and sometimes even more than twice. We meet across the table; all the members of the P. & T. board come, and we discuss all the problems there. We have free and frank discussions; there are no inhibitions there. The result is that we have been able to take quick decisions. As many as 90 decisions have been taken so far. You will be surprised to know that

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Some of the officers below feel that we have taken so large a number of decisions that it is rather difficult for them to implement those decisions. The gear has been reversed now. And they say that I am going very fast.

Shri M. B. Krishna: They may be wrong decisions also.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I would like to tell hon Members that I may also take wrong decisions sometimes; I do not mind taking ever wrong decisions but decisions should be taken. It is much better that wrong decisions are taken sometimes than that we should wait and play Hamlet all the time thinking 'To be or not to be', because that kind of thing is not good. I have therefore told all my officers that if they commit *bona fide* mistakes in taking quick decisions, I shall defend them and support them in all possibility and probability.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): If decisions are not implemented, then the decisions become abortions.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Let there be delivery first. Then there will be no abortions.

There are a large number of forms in this Department. In order to effect economy, I have asked them to see how many of them can be eliminated, because some of them are absolutely redundant and there is no doubt about that, and in the case of some of the forms their size can be shortened. It is such a huge Department which handles a large volume of work. Some hon. friends have also mentioned this fact that the Department handles about 150 crores of letters every day.

I would beg of Members to just consider this. It is true that some letters were not delivered and some telegrams were not delivered in time.

Such mistakes may be there. But we handle every day lakhs of telegrams. We handle every day one crore fifty lakh letters.

Shri Kapur Singh (Ludhiana): How many of them reach their destination?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I am coming to that.

Even if five mistakes are committed in a thousand cases, I would consider the performance first class. Out of 1 crore and 50 lakhs letters handled everyday, if 1,000 or 2,000 go wrong, I do not mind. After all, we must look at it against the background of the quantum of work they handle everyday.

श्री बागड़ी : मंत्री महोदय की यह बुनियाद गलत है। एक भी गुम नहीं होना चाहिए।

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I have already said that for these people who do not get the letter in time the loss is cent per cent. I have said that. But I would just place before you for your kind consideration the immensity of the work handled. After all, nothing is perfect in the world. Human machinery is never perfect. If Shri Bagri were to handle this, I am sure he would commit more mistakes than what these people do.

श्री मधु लिये (मंगेर) : क्या यह सही है कि तार डाक से जाते हैं ?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: As regards forms, we very recently introduced a scheme for the sale of M.O. forms. This has been criticised. This scheme was brought into effect from 1st March 1964, the sale price being adjusted against the money order commission. Shri Bagri mentioned about Satya Narayan Katha in this connection. Perhaps he ought to know that whenever a man is in trouble, it is the Satya Narayan katha that is recited.

That is the Hindu belief, and being a Hindu, he should realise that Satya Narayan katha is always essential for a man whenever he is in distress.

I was speaking about levying a charge on money order forms. Why was it done? I would beg of Members to consider this. The charge is 3 paise per form. This was done in view of the fact that money order forms being available free of cost, there was a huge wastage. Some people used to take them to their homes for lighting the fire or *choolha*.

**Shri Hem Barua:** That is not true.

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** These forms being free, they used to take them free to their homes. They are thick. You could get any number of forms you required. So this was done. Hon. Members will be glad to know that this scheme has resulted in a saving of money order forms of the value of more than Rs. 3 lakhs, and wastage which was about 23 per cent has been completely eliminated.

Hon. Members might have noticed that very recently—on my initiative—the department introduced a foldable envelope, as an experimental measure in Delhi, for the use of sending telegrams and thereby eliminated a separate envelope that was used.

**Shri Hem Barua:** What is that?

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** You use a foldable envelope. That will save money and also time, because you do not require a *lifafa*. I do not believe in *lifafa*. Therefore, it has been introduced.

Besides this, we have also decided to introduce a scheme of giving awards for the best suggestions available from the employees of the department. This is for the information of my hon. friend, Shri Daji, who mentioned about it. We are contem-

plating to have three such awards: first, second and third, for the postal, telegraph and telephone branches, and also merit certificates when the suggestion does not come up to the standard to merit an award. I am sure those who work in the field know well how and where economy can be effected and what simplification can be introduced conducive to efficiency of the services. They also know what are the handicaps we suffer from, as only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches. I am sure when this scheme of awards gains currency and the workers take to it, we shall have many fruitful suggestions coming from them. I assure the House that we will give the all possible attention to them and see that if the suggestions are really good, they must be given effect to.

As regards installation of latest equipments in the telecommunication field, the strides of progress have been impressive. As hon. Members are aware, direct dialling services are already available between Delhi-Jaipur, Delhi-Agra, Delhi-Kanpur, Agra-Kanpur and Kanpur-Lucknow. At present, they cover a distance of 500 kms. When our plan of co-axial cable is completed and cross-bar trunk automatic exchanges are installed, we will have direct dialling interconnecting thirty important cities and covering a distance of 2,000 kms.—a performance in the field of telecommunications which can well be a matter of pride for any advanced country. In order to facilitate introduction of direct dialling system, we are also going in for microwave radio links which will provide hundreds of channels, enabling us to introduce direct dialling system. By the end of the Third Five Year Plan, we are expecting to have about 2,300 kms. of microwave links. Let me add that laying of co-axial cables is being done at the rate of 2,000 kms. a year and microwave radio system at the rate of 1,000 kms. a year. Besides these steps, we have undertaken a big scheme of telecommunications for railway electrification. About 500 kms. of

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cable a year are being laid along AC electrified railway tracks for use of the Posts and Telegraphs and the Railways.

About local telephones, the stride of progress has been, by any standard, impressive. From world statistics, the rate of expansion of telephones in India has been from 5,18,036 in 1962 to 6,02,630 in 1963, that is, more than 16 per cent increase over 1962, which is the highest percentage increase in any country in the world. In the current year, we have not reached that. But this is the expansion. This year we are expecting to provide 90,000 additional telephones. Hon. Members will be glad to know that the target of 3 lakhs of telephones to be provided in the Third Plan has already been reached and the target has been raised upward to 4 lakh telephones during the Third Plan period. I think very few targets in any plan have been overreached like this.

If we compare the P&T services as they were before independence and after independence, there has been rather phenomenal progress. I crave the indulgence of Members to quote a few figures. Before independence, we had only 22,000 post offices; now we have 94,000. We are going to have 1,00,000 before the Third Plan period is over.

Similarly, the telegraph offices have doubled since independence. On the postal side, we expect to have about 1,00,000 post offices at the end of the Third Plan. As hon. Members know, our aim is to spread within our limitations, a network of post offices in the urban and rural areas in a manner that no citizen of the country may have to cover a distance of more than one kilometre in urban areas and three to five kilometres in rural areas to avail of the postal facilities. We are progressively investing the post offices with the powers to do savings bank work. In 1947-48, savings bank work was done only in 10,000 post offices. Now there are 47,500 post

offices doing this work. 35,000 out of 79,200 post offices in rural areas do savings work, that is, about 50 per cent post offices in the rural areas are doing savings bank work. All these post offices have been used for sale of National Savings Certificates, National Plan Certificates, National Defence Certificates and other schemes aimed at small savings.

Telex has been our latest innovation and we are also contemplating to introduce the Gentex system of circuits switching between important telegraph offices by the end of this year.

Overseas Communications Service continued to make progress during 1964-65. The international telex service, which was introduced for the first time in June 1960 has been expanding very rapidly. Subscribers on the telex system in India in any of the cities of Bombay, Ahmedabad, Calcutta, New Delhi and Madras now have access to all the overseas telex channels operated from Bombay, Calcutta or New Delhi. India has at present twelve telex channels working with London, Manila, Hamburg and Osaka. Through these services, international telex connections are now available with 54 countries of the world.

Our international telecommunications are all on the high frequency radio system with the exception of some very old telegraph submarine cables. We have therefore been exploring the possibility of adopting high capacity communication systems which would improve the quality of services. As hon. Members are aware, we have recently signed the Satellite agreement in February, 1965 for the establishment of Global Satellite Communication Systems along with several other countries of the world. The total cost of the Satellite System is expected to be between 200 to 300 million dollars. India's contribution to the capital cost of the system will be 0.5 per cent of the total cost. The completion of the Global Satellite

System will give India access to modern large-capacity high-quality telecommunication channels through which all forms of telecommunication facilities can be provided. For the utilisation of the Satellite communications, India will need to establish a ground station. Such a ground station is at present estimated to cost about Rs. 3 crores, with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 2.25 crores. We have yet to persuade the Finance Ministry to agree to it. I hope they will agree.

Having established a ground station, we will have to rent the number of Satellite channels required for the carriage of our international telegraph and telephone traffic. I am giving all these things for the information of the House to show that even in comparison with all the advanced countries, we are trying to do our best.

There is also a proposal for extension of the large capacity submarine co-axial cable system from Malaysia to India. After we get both Satellite communications and submarine cables, I hope there will be a highly efficient and integrated system of global telecommunication, free from any defects or deficiencies experienced at present.

We are establishing a network of wireless monitoring stations in the country to provide necessary monitoring information for the Wireless, Planning and Co-ordination Wing to assist it in its task of radio frequencies management and enforcement of national and international regulations. Such stations are already functioning at Delhi, Nagpur, Bombay, Calcutta, Shillong, Srinagar and Gorakhpur and another station at Madras will start functioning shortly. These stations are equipped with necessary specialised equipment to enable them to supply required data for all types of transmissions. Further equipment is being obtained for this purpose. These monitoring stations also carry out monitoring operations to the extent possible for

detecting transmissions which are unauthorised or which violate licensing conditions in order to take suitable action against these operations.

**श्री बागड़ी :** गोष्ठा से जो एक तार डा० लोहिया के नाम आया था कि हम शान्तिमय क्रान्ति के आप के प्रोग्राम में आप का साथ देंगे, उस तार को क्यों रोका गया ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** आर्डर, आर्डर.

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** Our factory, the Hindustan Teleprinters Limited at Madras, has made halting progress for want of suitable buildings. The building of the factory has been completed, and the work is getting into full swing. We expect to achieve the production target of 1,328 unit machines for 1964-65.

Now I come to the Indian Telephone Industries Limited, and I would beg of Members to listen to the achievements of this public sector undertaking.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Jalore):** It has got the President's prize; we know it.

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** Hon. Members are aware that this public sector undertaking was awarded the Silver Shield by the Committee on Presidential Awards for being the best among the public undertakings selected for best all-round performance during 1962-63. This stood first.

The sales of the Indian Telephone Industries Limited during 1963-64 were Rs. 9.30 Crores as against the target of Rs. 9.10 Crores. For the current year, the sales target is Rs. 10.92 Crores. We hope to achieve this target also. The efficiency of all Incentive Shops, taken as a whole, for the year 1963-64 was 110.40 per cent as against 102.94 per cent in 1962-63. This entitled each worker to a production bonus of Rs. 178 for the year 1963-64.

Hon. friends opposite, Shri Daji and Shri Banerjee, will recall that in this

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ITI there was some quarrel going on, and I was appointed arbitrator. I would request them to go and ask the workers, and they will give their reaction to my award. Some question were raised about the export of the telephone instruments. You know that we were bound by some agreement in 1948 that we could sell our production only in Burma and Ceylon. As regards the export to the other foreign countries, the agreement placed certain restrictions on us and this agreement came to an end only in 1963. We are now free from those restrictions and as such we are prepared to export about twenty per cent of our production from the Indian Telephone Industries Limited and efforts are being made to find a market abroad. In these days of competition in the international market our exports can be built up only slowly. In 1962-63 our export was only for Rs. 38,000 and in 1963-64 it has gone up to Rs. 5,56,000 and I hope that this amount will increase in the years to come.

The hon. Members must be knowing that we import cables from foreign countries. In any case the Hindustan Cables Limited, Rupnarainpur is under the control of the Ministry of Industry and Supply. You will be surprised that whatever they produce are consumed by us; this department is the consumer; the entire show is also run by our department but still it is under some other Ministry. Ever since I have taken over charge, I have been saying: please rationalise it.

**Shri Hem Barua:** It is the fault of the Government of which he is a Minister.... (Interruptions).

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** Sir, I am racing against time. I would like to give the reaction of the workers. I would just like to place before you the telegram which they had sent to me after the award was given. I have already said that they had always finished their targets or have gone beyond their targets. They say:

"The Committee wishes to assure the Minister of Communications that the ITI workers and the Union have always stood for higher production, that no efforts, will be spared by them to further step up the production."

I am sure the employees will do their best and that they will give a still better account of themselves. I would also like to tell the hon. Members about the various steps taken by the department during 1964-65 for improving the efficiency of the services and also providing measures for welfare to the employees of the department. I believe the hon. Members must be knowing that the communications provided from Delhi towards Calcutta are on co-axial cable system available between Delhi—Asansol. This system enables large block of telephone and telegraph circuits to be provided with a high degree of efficiency. When any fault comes up in cable, major interruptions take place. So, it sometimes happens that you book a trunk call for Calcutta and then they say that the line is out of order. It becomes out of order immediately after you put through the call. Sometimes it does happen. We are trying to take all possible measures to see that such inconveniences are not experienced by hon. Members.

There was an anomalous position for quite a long time that while employees belonging to the Telegraph and Telephone branches and RMS people used to get over-time allowance, this privilege was denied to the clerk working in post offices. This was examined and orders had been issued extending similar benefits to them. Similarly, orders have been issued assuring the staff, except those working in running trains, at least nine holidays in a year.

Hon. Members are aware that a huge number of extra departmental employees in my department who run the services in the far flung areas of the country were not governed by

any rationalised rules and conditions of service. Very recently orders have been issued defining these conditions.

Some hon. Members have raised the question of the extra-departmental offices and they have said that those people are getting about Rs. 22 or Rs. 25. It is true, but there is one thing that hon. Members are getting. All these employees are whole-time workers. (Interruption) I also come from the villages, as some hon. Members are. I may inform the House that most of these extra-departmental workers are teachers in schools; they are not paid well there. So, they make up the deficiency by being our extra-departmental workers.

श्री शिव नारायण : 22 रु० बहुत कम हैं और उन की जिम्मेदारी बहुत है ।

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: They have to work, in general, for not more than five hours. I think that they deserve something more, but one should not run away with the idea that they are all whole-time workers getting only Rs. 22 or so. They are part-time workers.

श्री बागड़ी : जो टीचर्स हैं उन को भी इतना ही मिलता है ।

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: We have taken some decision in that direction. I cannot call it a concession or anything which is very favourable to them, but we have started things in that direction.

About telegrams, hon. Members have voiced complaints both outside and on the floor of the House quite a number of times. It is already known that we have got a number of combined offices in the rural areas, and these offices have got limited hours of work. These combined offices work on a common wire or telegraph line called 'circuit' and there

fore the hold-up of telegrams becomes almost unavoidable, because when one office is working the others have to bide their time. In order to improve matters and expedite the transmission of telegrams, it has been decided that the working hours of these combined offices should be extended and the number of offices on a line should be reduced, taking into account the load on the line. I am sure the net result will be improvement in the services and also expeditious transmission of the telegrams.

In order to improve delivery of telegrams, it has been decided that in the combined offices, where there are three or more telegrams to be delivered on an average per day, an extra ED delivery messenger will be provided. Hitherto, this was not being done. The implementation of this order means that we shall be having 1,500 new ED delivery messengers in the various telegraph offices in the country. Besides, we have also decided that wherever there are 80 or more telegrams per day between two stations, a separate direct line should be provided.

We have also decided to introduce teleprinter service in the combined offices wherever the number of telegrams exceeds 125 per day.

Some hon. Members met me the other day with knitted brows and flashing eyes, complaining vehemently against wrong billing or incorrect telephone bills. Some hon. Member said that he did not book any trunk call but yet he got a bill for Rs. 200 or so. Sometimes, it happens. I am sorry I cannot provide any immediate solution to this problem, but we have already invited some consultants from the United Kingdom to go into the details and make recommendations for the reorganisation and rationalisation of our billing system so that the bills may be correctly and expeditiously made out. In the large telephone districts like Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras, thousands of bills for local and trunk calls are is-



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sued every month. Mechanisation was considered to be one way of handling this large volume of work, and experiment in this regard is already being conducted at Calcutta. Its success or otherwise is still to be finally assessed. If this experiment is found to be successful, we would like to extend it. In the United Kingdom and other advanced countries they have got a very large number of telephones and they say that generally 90 to 99 per cent of their bills are correct and are done very expeditiously. The Government is considering the recommendations, and I hope that after they are implemented—I cannot say that most of these things will be completely eliminated—these things will at least be reduced very considerably.

Some hon. Members have met me earlier and pointed out to me that the telephone directory should be issued in Hindi also, particularly in the Hindi regions. By the way, hon. Members must have seen yesterday in the leading dailies that they have said very good things about the telephone directory which has been published very recently. They have said that it is for the first time perhaps in this Ministry that it has been done like this.

Accordingly, we have taken a decision that a certain percentage of the Telephone Directories will be printed in Hindi in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and after watching how the public receive Directories, further steps will be taken to increase the percentage.

In this regard, we are also considering about the publication of the Telephone Directories in regional languages by giving the work to private publishers. A final decision will be taken very soon.

Needles to point out that all development and expansion in the activities of the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Department of

Communications depend on the availability of funds and resources. Here comes the rub. What can I do? That is our difficulty. A very rough estimate was made as to the demands that are likely to be generated during the fourth Five Year Plan. You know how the Planning Commission has ruthlessly cut down our demands. Our friends here rightly mentioned about the need for quarters. I will come to that point later. When we compare the position about the quarters, we find that in other ministries of the Government, 16 per cent have been provided with quarters. But in this unfortunate ministry it is only 4 per cent. Ever since I took over charge, I have been trying to step up the whole thing. As I said, that rub comes in and the Finance Ministry say, we cannot provide you with money? Our idea was to provide a considerably large number of quarters for our workers. I quite realise that if a man has no proper place to live in, we cannot expect him to render very good service. We have to keep them contented; it is a human factor which we cannot ignore. I quite appreciate it.

श्री बागड़ी : अगर आप को पैसा नहीं मिलता तो आप इस्तीफा दे दीजिये, मंत्री क्यों बने हुए हैं ।

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : अगर हाउस से किसी को इस्तीफा देना चाहिये तो आप को सब से पहले ।

If anybody deserves to resign from this House, it is Mr. Bagri.

A very rough estimate was made as to the demands that are likely to be generated during the fourth Five Year Plan and it was found that as many as twenty lakh telephones will be required by the end of the fourth Five year Plan. A corresponding increase will be necessary in the field

of postal services also. Hon. Members are already aware that we have got a very huge waiting list all over the country. About 2½ to 3 lakhs of people are waiting for telephones. The other day I was told that in Bombay people are waiting since 1956 in some areas.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Very shameful!

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** No doubt very shameful. All these point out to the urgent necessity of expanding our resources which, as I said, primarily depend on availability of funds. Again this question of fund comes. Though we are in such a tight corner I was extremely eager to provide some concessions. I was rather tempted to reduce the price of postcard, if I could, for it would have earned a warm appreciation from all round, particularly from the teeming millions of our country, who may or may not use other facilities of the P&T department, but surely do use the postcard. But when I looked into it, I was surprised to find that even at present the price we have fixed for a postcard results in a loss to the department of Rs. 2,27,82,000. The cost of handling a postcard is near about 8 paise.

**Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur):** The calculation is hopeless; it is wrong.

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** After all, if we dismiss all the statistics, we will be nowhere. Even according to the international regulations, the charge of a postcard should be 60 per cent of the minimum postage chargeable for letters, i.e. the *lifafa*. As hon. members know, we charge 15 Paise for an envelope and 60 per cent of it would be 9 Paise. We are charging only six paise. In other words, we have not decided to go by the international regulations either. According to international rules the price of a post-card should be nine paise. Hon. Mem-

bers also know that we are running our postal system in the rural areas by opening a number of extra-departmental post offices and incurring approximately a loss of one crore of rupees. He do not grudge that money. It is money rightly spent. In the border areas, even if we have to incur a loss it is a thing that we must do and the Government must come forward to do it.

I am sorry I may not be announcing any concessions worth the name; still there are a few measures—humble things—I am going to take which will be in that direction, though not actually being concessions as such. Hon. Members have very often demanded that whenever a telegram is sent by post there should be a system of automatic refund. They would be glad to know that this suggestion has been examined and we are going to issue orders that when posting of telegrams has to be resorted to and as a result thereof, Express and Ordinary telegrams suffer a delay of twenty-four hours and forty-eight hours or more, respectively, the cost of such telegrams after deducting a sum of fifty paise in each case, representing the expenditure incurred in booking, delivery and other allied works, should be refunded on the initiative of the Department. You are not to wait for it now. You will get back the money automatically.

The Postal Life Insurance work is an agency work undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of Finance. Declaration of bonus naturally, therefore, depends on how efficiently we run this organisation. I am happy to inform the House that the Postal Life Insurance has continued to maintain its all-round progress and has declared bonus for the period 1960-63, at the attractive rates of Rs. 23 and Rs 17 per thousand sum assured per annum for whole Life and Endowment Assurance policies, respectively. This is the highest bonus declared at any time and is also higher than the bonuses declared by the Life Insurance Corporation. This will benefit those government employees—of

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course we will not be the recipients of it—and employees of semi-government organisations who have taken policies under the Postal Life Insurance Scheme.

We do another agency work, of issuing broadcasting receiver licences. There has been a demand that there should be licences for more than a year at one time and that it should be in a book-form which can be preserved properly. At present a sheet of paper is issued which is very often lost and issue of duplicate becomes necessary. It has been now decided that this licence will be issued in the form of an attractive book from the middle of this year. Also the fee will be realised in the shape of special stamps of which an attractive series is being brought out. Licence can be renewed for more than a year up to five years. A concession will be given for the issue or renewal of certain types of licence for a period of more than a year. All these measures will result in better and improved service and also are anticipated to effect considerable economy in overall expenditure in the renewal of licences.

Some hon. Members have raised points regarding staff quarters. I have a ready deat with that point.

I would like to make some announcements. During the last four days, two 100 lines Automatic Teleprinter Exchanges (Telex) have been commissioned—one at Coimbatore and the other at Kanpur. Another 100 line teleprinter exchange is planned to be brought into service today at Nagpur. Within the next ten days, another 100 line teleprinter exchange will be opened at Secunderabad. It will be recalled that teleprinter exchanges are already working at Delhi Bombay, Calcutta and Madras since June 1963.

An hon. Member: What about Bhopal?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Bhopal is going to get a PMG Circle very soon.

We are also proposing to open community centres in large P & T colonies to prompt the spirit of co-operation and community development amongst the employees and their families and to impart training in useful arts and crafts.

We have eight full-time P & T dispensaries already functioning. We propose to open a dispensary at every station where one thousand or more employees live.

For treatment of the employees suffering from TB we have at present 180 beds reserved in various hospitals at a cost of Rs. 4.25 lakhs. We are thinking of constructing departmental TB wards attached to reputed TB hospitals. To begin with, one such ward in each of the four main zones, that is, East, West, North and South will be constructed at a cost of about Rs. 75,000 each. Five holiday homes exist at present. He propose to add five more.

Hon. Members are aware that in P & T we have a scheme for awarding scholarships for technical and non-technical education of the meritorious children of the employees. The scheme started with 200 scholarships for technical education and fifty for non-technical. In 1964-65 the amount in this regard would be Rs. 4.25 lakhs. The demand for technical education has been increasing. It has, therefore, been decided to allot fifty more technical scholarships.

Before I conclude, I would like to set at rest a controversy regarding shifting of the Office of the Postmaster General from Nagpur. We have already taken a decision in regard to shifting of the headquarters of the Central Circle from Nagpur to Bhopal. I have personally moved in the matter, discussed it with the Chief Minister regarding accommodation etc. and

after necessary accommodation for office and staff is made available this shifting will take effect. For Nagpur we have under consideration the opening of a P. & T. Training Centre so that our building may be utilized and the importance of Nagpur, which is feared to be reduced, may be somewhat kept up. In fact, I had a long discussion about this with the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and he went back satisfied when I spoke about this. When they get this training centre they will forget that the PMG's office has gone away from their place.

Then, our revered friend, Dr. Aney, made a point which I cannot overlook about the contribution to the general revenues. This should have been given effect to from 1935. Since then, it was done on an *ad hoc* basis. Now we have taken a decision and the percentage has also been fixed. Because, already there is a deficit or arrear of Rs. 23 crores. We hope that gradually we will be able to cover it up. It is a very nice suggestion. We have already taken steps in this regard and we hope to do something better later.

Then, most of the points raised by other hon. Members are of a local nature.

**श्री बागड़ी :** सरदार पटल की प्रतिमा का टिकट अभी तक क्यों नहीं निकाला गया ?

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** I have already announced that it will be done.

**श्री बागड़ी :** अब तक क्यों नहीं हुआ ?

**श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह :** बीती ताहि बिसारि दे आगे की सुधि लेय ।

**श्री राम सेवक यादव (बाराबंकी) :** यह आप क्या कह रहे हैं, "बीती ताहि बिसारि दे" ।

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** If I have not touched some of those points it does not mean that I have overlooked them. I will look into each of the grievances or complaints voiced or ventilated by hon. Members on the floor of the House.

**श्री बागड़ी :** भारत के इतने बड़े नेता को अब तक बिसारि का क्या बजह था ।

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** We shall look into them and do all that is feasible and possible.

Before I resume my seat I would like with your permission to express my grateful thanks to all the officers of my department and the workers who, ever since I have taken charge, have given me co-operation in abundance, and I have no doubt that with their unstinted co-operation we will be able to acquit ourselves much better next time.

**Mr. Speaker:** After the speech of the hon. Minister, I think, all the cut motions are withdrawn.

**Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:** Sir., I want a definite assurance from the hon. Minister. I have twice or thrice raised the matter in the consultative committee also about the issuing of stamp in memory of late Sardar Patel.

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** I have announced about that.

**Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:** What about Vithalbhai Patel and Siyajil Rao Gaekwad?

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** Please wait.

**Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:** How long?

**Mr. Speaker:** I take it all the cut motions are withdrawn.

*All the cut motions were, by leave, withdrawn.*

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in

[Mr. Speaker]

the fourth column of the order paper, be granted to the President, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1966, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 101 to 105, 148 and 149 relating to the Department of Communications."

*The motion was adopted.*

16.52 hrs.

#### MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now take up Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of External Affairs. Five hours have been allotted for this. Those who want to move their cut motions may do so within 15 minutes.

#### DEMAND NO. 22—TRIBAL AREAS

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,48,07,000/- 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, 1966, in respect of 'Tribal Areas'."

#### DEMAND NO. 23—EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,69,36,000/- 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, 1966, in respect of 'External Affairs'."

#### DEMAND NO. 24—OTHER REVENUE EXPENDITURE OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,21,16,000/- 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, 1966, in respect of 'Other Revenue Expenditure of the Ministry of External Affairs'."

#### DEMAND NO. 119—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,25,00,000/- 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, 1966, in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of External Affairs'."

**Shri M. R. Masani (Rajkot):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to speak in support of my cut motion No. 7 on the order paper which refers to the failure to take adequate steps for the defence of India's security and vital national interests which are involved in the defence of Malaysia, South Vietnam and Laos against Chinese Communist backed aggression.

I would like to start by inviting hon. Members to undertake what the French call a tour d'horizon, that is, a view of the horizon. Let us look around our frontiers and see in what condition and in what neighbourhood we find ourselves. On our West, we find that our relations with our neighbour Pakistan, have deteriorated—a most unfortunate condition. When we turn to the north, we find the Himalayan heights occupied by the Chinese Communist invaders who have not withdrawn from our territory and who do not look like withdrawing