

[English]

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: Sir, I may also kindly be allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I have called for the information.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Sir, it is a serious matter. She was arrested and police have not intimidated. She may please be allowed to make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: I have called for the information.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot just take decision without information.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Members who are speaking on behalf of the Member probably do not know the facts. You have received the facts only when you were sitting with the lady Member on the bench. The letter which she has written to me is in my possession. I have read the letter and I shall have to take a decision as to whether it constitutes a breach of privilege or not only after getting the information. I will be the first person to protect the privilege of the Members. As I am having some doubt about it, I have called for the information. I will take a decision after I receive the facts.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG (Shillong): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the

Government to the total failure of the Postal Department. The postal employees in the whole of the North-Eastern region are on strike and we do not receive any letters or anything of that kind. Even the Government offices are affected.

Sir, in 1989, the Communications Department had given special duty allowance to the Telecommunication staff and not to the Postal staff and negotiations had been going on between the Postal staff and the Government. But till today, nothing has been done. The case was withdrawn from the Supreme Court again only to be filed in the CAT, Guwahati Bench. This is only delay tactics on the part of the Communications Department. Sir, I urge upon the Communications Department to look into the matter. The whole North-Eastern region is without letters affecting not only the people there, the citizens of India but also the Department of the Government itself. So, I urge upon the Government for immediate negotiations with the Postal staff of the North-Eastern region.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise to draw the attention of the House and of the Government to the continuing strike of service doctors. Ten thousand service doctors representing various bodies such as the CGHS, Delhi Administration, Indian Railway Medical Service, Indian Ordnance Factories Health Service, DTC, DESU, etc. have been on strike for the last several days. And the distressing part is that the issue is very straight forward. Tikkoo Committee was constituted in 1989 when, as far as I can recall, Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha was the Health Minister. At that time, the Government and the doctors entered into a Memorandum of Settlement signed by both. It was not an ordinary Committee. It was a high-powered Committee comprising of experts from health management, experts from personnel management and it was almost accepted that the recommendations of this Committee would be accepted. But