and the Delhi University implemented that *at its meeting held on October 25, 1975. Prof. Nurul Hasan accepted that position 'after March 25, 1977— that is, he waited for his party's defeat to be over and then got into it! So my point is whether the UGC themselves brought up this proposal of having such types of Additional Professors or whether it was at the instance of the then Minister of Education who advised the UGC that they should go in for this type of thing? Who are the originators? And if it was the UGC how did the then Minister of Education agree to such a proposal when Emeritus and Honorary Professors are already there?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-DER: I have already explained that it was the UGC which issued the circular to different Universities. As regards what went behind these circulars, I am not in a position to say. You are aware that the UGC is a statutory body created under the Act and, therefore, the Ministry cannot control the activities of the statutory body in every case. This Parliament has entrusted the UGC with the power to improve the standard of Higher Education and it has acted on those lines.

श्री ना.चू सिंह : यह बहुत ही गम्भीर मामला है और इसको लेकर पूरे देश के विश्व-विद्यालयों के छात्रों और अध्यापकों में भारी प्रसन्तोष है । इस तरह की गलत नियुक्तियां दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय में ही नहीं, बल्कि देश के दूसरे विश्वविद्यालयों में भी की गई हैं । ऐसा महसूस हो रहा है कि ये नियुक्तियां एंकेडेमिक प्वाइंट आफ व्यू से न होकर राजनीति से प्रेरित हैं । इस बारे में विभिन्न विश्वविद्या-लयों के छात्र और प्राध्यापक लिख-लिखकर उपकुलपतियों, राज्य सरकारों और केन्द्रीय सरकार को भेज चुके हैं । मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि इस प्रकार की जो गलत नियुक्तियां की गई हैं इन के बारे में वह कोई कार्यवाही करेंगे या कार्यवाही करने का आदेश देंगे ? कब तक इस पर कार्यवाही हो आएगी ?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-DER: I would like to take legal opinion on the point whether we are at all authorised to have such an enquiry.

MR. SPEAKER: Now I would request all of you to sit down: I am on my legs. He has answered the question. At least 30 more people are there wanting to ask questions and already we have spent 40 minutes on this, without any new light being thrown. Everybody is making insinuations. I would appeal to you that there have been enough of insinuations and replies thereto—though of course the replies have been quite good. Any more supplementaries are not going to throw any new light and I am therefore not going to allow any. The Budget Demands are still there to be taken up. I can allow one more hour if you want without losing anything thereby: but it is the House that will lose. I am therefore not going to allow any more supplementaries. Kindly excuse me and don't misunderstand me.

We will now take up the next item.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Settlement of Claims against Portuguese Government

*370. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several individuals and organisations have some outstanding claims against the Portuguese Government and also against some Portuguese institutions such as the "Banco Nacional Ultramarino"; if so, what is the precise nature of these claims; and

(b) what steps have Government taken and/or propose to take towards settlement of these claims?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Yes, Sir. These claims

are of various kinds including claims on the Banco Nacional Ultramarino, Lisbon, in regard to repayment of loans or investments in securities.

(b) Article III of the Indo Portuguese treaty of December 31st, 1974 provides for settlement of questions concerning the property, assets and claims of citizens of the respective countries as well as those concerning State property and assets of either State in the territories of the other State through bilateral negotiations. The possibilities of settlement of claims are being examined.

Minimum Wage for Handloom Workers

*371. SHRI K. A. RAJAN

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the absence of a national minimum wage for handloom workers is adversely affecting the handloom industry in Kerala where minimum wages have been fixed; and

(b) whether Government propose to take steps for such fixation for avoiding unfair competition between the industry in different regions?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala have drawn attention to this matter.

(b) Minimum Wages for handloom workers are fixed by the State Governments in their capacity as 'Appropriate Government' under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. A uniform minimum wage throughout the country is not feasible due to several reasons. but consultations between neighbouring States may help in narrowing disparities.

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में चलते फिरते डाकघर खोलना

*372. श्री हरगोविन्द वर्मा : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में चलते-फिरते डाकघर खोल रही है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसे डाकघर कब तक खोल दिए जायेंगे और उत्तर प्रदेश में कितने ऐसे डाकघर खोले जायेंगे ?

संचार मंत्री (श्री ब्रज लाल वर्मा) : (क) और (ख) . जी हां । ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में साइकिलों पर चलते-फिरते डाकघर वर्ष 1975-76 से खोले जा रहे हैं । 31-3-77 तक ऐसे 464 डाकघर खोले जा चुके थे । इनमें उत्तर प्रदेश में खोले गए 33 डाकघर भी शामिल हैं ।

वर्ष 1977-78 के दौरान उत्तर प्रदेश में 250 चलते-फिरते डाकघर खोलने और लगभग 4000 मौजूदा अचल डाकघरों को चलते-फिरते डाकघरों में बदलने का प्रस्ताव है । ये डाकघर करीब 13000 गांवों को डाक-सेवाएं देंगे ।

Implementation of Minimum Wages Act

*373. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have implemented the Minimum Wages Act throughout the country particularly in Gujarat State;

(b) whether Government have set up a machinery for detecting the defaulters and punish them; and

(c) if so, the outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VERMA): (a) Imple-