

Non-Implementation of Agreements with Postal Employees

*70. SHRI GAYAN SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS
GUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether about six lakh postal employees all over the country had resorted to strike from 9th to 16th July, 1998, mainly for the cause of Extra Departmental employees;

(b) whether the strike was withdrawn on the 16th July, 1998, after a settlement was reached at after long discussion between the representatives of employees' Unions and him;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that one of the terms of the said settlement have been implemented, so far; and

(d) if so, what are the terms of the agreement made and reasons for not implementing the same, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) to (d) Postal strike during 89 to 16th July- 1998 was resorted to by Postal Unions/Associations with an estimated total membership of 3.5 lakhs. The 10 point Charter of Demands submitted by the Federations and their affiliates comprised the following:

(a) Implementation of positive recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee on Postal ED Agents and rejection of all adverse recommendations, (b) improvement of pay scales of Postman grade, (c) implementation of revised formula for Productivity Linked Bonus and payment of additional number of days PLB for the year 1996-97, (d) demands for upgradation of scales of pay for different categories of employees of the Department like Group 'D', Postal Assistant, Accountant, Driver and Workshop staff, Stenographer and JAO, and regularisation of part-time/ casual labours and grant

of benefits on par with regular employees.

The Postal strike was called off by the Joint Council of Action of postal staff Federations in response to the appeal by the then Minister of Communications during her discussions with the staff representatives and her assurance for sympathetic and expeditious settlement of the issues including implementation of Justice Talwar Committee recommendations.

Issues regarding improvement of pay, scales of Postman cadre and implementation of revised formula for Productivity Linked Bonus were decided with the approval of Cabinet and necessary orders in this regard have been issued. Implementation of recommendation of Justice Talwar Committee on Postal ED Agents is under active consideration of the Government. In respect of the other demands regarding improvement of pay scales, etc. for different categories of staff in the Department, a Committee chaired by Member (Personnel), Postal Service Board has been set up with officials of the Department and representatives of the two federations of postal employees. The Committee is entrusted with the task of formulating agreed views on the demands so that further appropriate action can be initiated for obtaining necessary orders of the Government. The Committee has held several meetings and its report is expected to be finalised shortly.

Purchase of Castrators from Foreign Companies

*71. SHRI CHIMANBHAI
HARIBHAI SHUKLA:
SHRI GOPALSINH G.
SOLANKI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various State Animal Husbandary Departments on the recommendation of Central Government are procuring CASTRATORS to castrate scrub bulls, from foreign companies at exorbitant rates;