

Outstanding dues against cellular companies

33. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts due to the MTNL from the cellular companies; and

(b) the name of each operator and the amount due?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Nil

(b) Not applicable in view of reply to (a) above.

Withdrawal of strike by Postal Workers

34. SHRI GAYA SINGH:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the assurances given to the Trade Unions representing Postal Workers who were on strike for 14 days until 18th December, 2000 to persuade them to withdraw the strike; and

(b) whether such assurances have been honoured and if so, what steps have been taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) In this connection it is to intimate that large number of postal employees all over the country remained on strike from 5-12-2000 to 18.12.2000. Several rounds of negotiations were held with the representatives of postal federations and their affiliated unions at the level of MoC, Secretary (P) and the Members of the Postal Services Board, where the issues pertaining to their demands and the rationale underlying Government's views in this regard were duly explained. During these negotiations it was clarified that the reasonable demands of the employees having implications only within the Department of Posts can be resolved. The Hon'ble MoC in his written appeal dated 17.12.2000 to the striking postal

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employees outlined the nature of action being taken on their demands.

- (i) In the case of Group 'D' Staff in entry/TBOP/BCR levels, Department of Posts will identify jobs which because of attendant hazards can be classified as semi-skilled and will therefore justify appropriate special allowance.
- (ii) The Department will undertake cadre review in respect of Postal Accounts and Mail Motor Service Cadres.
- (iii) Issues relating to Casual Labourers and other items such as Head Mail Peons will be discussed separately with the Postal Services Board.
- (iv) A suitable social security benefit scheme for ED Agents *in lieu* of the existing severance amount will be formulated in consultation with LIC and the Unions.

(b) The action taken so far on the above points are as indicated below.

- (i) The National Productivity Council (NPC), Ministry of Industry, has been asked to undertake the work study on the job-content of Group 'D' staff in the Department of Posts. After submission of their report, it would be possible for the Department to take a decision on the issue.
- (ii) The cadre review of Postal Accounts and Mail Motor Service cadres are under consideration in the Department and Unions have also been involved in this exercise.
- (iii) Discussions with the representatives of the postal federations and unions on issues relating to casual labourers have been initiated and the first meeting was held on 7.2.2001.
- (iv) Consultation with L.I.C. has taken place and the proposal received from L.I.C. is being communicated to the Unions.