

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the *1st August*, 1989/10 *Sravana*
1991 (*Saka*)

The Hosue met at eleven of the
clock, Mr, Chairman in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Mohan Singh (Uttar Pradesh)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Strike.threat by the postal employees

*201. SHRI GURUDAS DAS
GUPTA: t

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH
MALIK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-
TIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the
. National Federation of Postal Employees
had announced on the 15th July, 1989 that the
postal employees in the country would go on
an indefinite strike in September, this year;

(b) if so, what are the main grievances
demands of these employees; and

(c) whether any action is proposed to be
taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) A news
item appeared in a section of the press on 16-
7-1989 reporting that the National Federation
of Postal Employees had decided in the
meeting of jits Federal Executive held at
Simla to go on indefinite strike in mid-
September to press for settlement of demands.
But no formal communication or notice of
strike with Charter of Demands has been
received by the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not airse.

t The question was actually asked on the
floor of the House by Shri Gurudas Das
Gupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir,
despite the Government's tears rolling down
for the poor man whether in the countryside or
in the urban area, the poor man's
communication system that is, Posts and
Telegraphs, is sought to be made sick by the
callous "attitude of the Government, thus
enabling privatization to take place on a very
wide scale, and this philosophy of the
Government of being callous towards the
communication system which the poor man
uses has led the Government to became totally
indifferent to the long-standing grievances of
the postal employees. For the knowledge of
the honourable Minister, let me

refer to the fact that in 1987 there was a call for an
indefinite strike and that call for an indefinite
strike for the fulfillment of the long-standing
grievances of the postal employees was
postponed because the then Communications
Minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, intervened and
gave certain assurances. But, despite those as-
surances, nothing was done to benefit the
poor postal employees. In fact, certain orders
were passed, which made their life more
miserable. Therefore, I would like to know
from the honourable Minister whether he is
aware that there are longstanding grievances
for the redressal of which the postal
employees have been agitating over the
years—there have been calls for strike and in
fact, a one-day strike took place recently—and
if he is aware of those grievances, what steps
he wants to take to solve this problem.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Sir, the
Government is always positive in its attitude
towards genuine grievances of the employees.
A token strike was. there on 25-5-1989 for one
day and their demands numbering eight were
considered the list of which I have got here.
But on most of their grievances a positive
approach and attitude was taken. Sanction- of
justified posts which was one of their demands
and the removal of ban on recruitment and the
proposal for creation of posts at various stages
are under consideration. The question of (regu-
larisation of 1,465 posts of postman and 235
posts of Sorting Postman is at present with the
Ministry of Finance. The case of Postal
Assistants and Sorting As-