

RAJYA SABHA

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

The House 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:†

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH
MALIK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS 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 its 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 arise.

†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 become 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 fulfilment 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 assurances, 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 long-standing 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 regularisation 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-