

#### **Demand to improve the speed post services**

SHRI N. BALAGANGA (Tamil Nadu): The Postal Department has been playing a vital role in the field of communication. From the days, India achieved Independence, people have been utilising the services of the Postal Department as a machinery of communication. Sensing the people sentiments that postal delivery system has to be made in a rapid and prompt manner, the Postal Department launched the Scheme "Speed Post System". It envisaged for the speedy delivery of letters and parcels within 24 hours at reasonable cost. Nowadays, the system is not yielding the desired result. There is an inordinate delay in the Speed Post System. Due to the negligent attitude of the Department, the people have begun to seek the private courier company services and thus they are subjected to escalation of cost burden.

Therefore, I appeal to the Government to intervene and regulate the Speed Post system properly. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI A. ELAVARASAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

#### **Demand to give employment to the dependants of deceased and medically-unfit employees of Bhilai Steel Plant on compassionate grounds**

**श्री मोती लाल वोरा** (छत्तीसगढ़) : महोदय, भिलाई स्टील प्लांट में 1984 के बाद जिन कर्मचारियों की सेवाकाल में मृत्यु हो गई थी, उनके मात्र तीन आश्रित ऐसे बचे हैं, जो नियुक्ति के लिए अभी प्रतीक्षा कर रहे हैं, किंतु जो कर्मचारी वर्ष 1997 से 2004 तक मेडिकली अनफिट हुए, उनके लगभग 315 आश्रित उम्मीदवार आज भी नियुक्ति के लिए प्रतीक्षारत हैं।

महोदय, 1996 तक भिलाई स्टील प्लांट ने मानवीय दृष्टिकोण अपनाते हुए अपने सभी कर्मचारियों, जो किसी भी कारण मेडिकली अनफिट हुए थे, के आश्रितों को नौकरी प्रदान की, किंतु 1997 और उसके बाद के कर्मचारियों के आश्रितों को, सभी डॉक्युमेंट्स की छानबीन करने के बावजूद, आज तक नियुक्ति नहीं दी जा सकी है।

वर्ष 2006 में यह निश्चय किया गया था कि जो कर्मचारी किडनी खराब हो जाने अथवा कैंसर से पीड़ित हैं, उनके आश्रितों को नौकरी दी जाएगी, किंतु 47 में से 22 लोग अभी भी नियुक्ति की प्रतीक्षा में हैं।

मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि ऐसे सभी आश्रितों को तत्काल नियुक्ति प्रदान की जाए तथा भविष्य में भी, यदि बीएसपी किन्हीं कर्मचारियों को स्वास्थ्य के आधार पर अयोग्य समझती है, तो मानवीय दृष्टिकोण अपनाते हुए उनके आश्रितों को रोजगार प्रदान किया जाए, ताकि उस परिवार के सामने भुखमरी की समस्या उत्पन्न न हो।

#### **Need to rein in private banks charging exorbitant rates of interest on home loans**

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, my Special Mention is about private banks charging exorbitant rates of interest on home loans.

Sir, the aim and object of the Government is to provide housing loan to middle class and poor people at affordable rates of interest so that they fulfil their dream of owning a house. It is also the

objective of the Government that not only nationalised banks but also private banks extend home loans liberally to middle and lower middle class and poor people. But the ground reality is the other way round when it comes to private banks. Whenever the Government reduces the Repo Rate, the nationalised banks promptly reduce the corresponding rates of interest on home loans, thereby passing on the benefit to the customers. But when it comes to private banks, neither they reduce rates of interest nor pass on the benefit to customers in spite of directives from the Government. Sometimes, they apply the directives to provide loans at lower rates of interest, which they do only for new customers and not the existing customers. Even now, when the nationalised banks are charging 8 per cent or 9 per cent rate of interest, private banks such as ICICI, HDFC, Deutsch Bank, etc. are still charging exorbitant rates of interest which varies between 11 and 13 per cent. There is also another problem with private banks. They charge between two to three per cent of the loan if one wishes to foreclose the loan account.

I would request the Government of India to ponder over the issue seriously and direct the private banks to strictly follow the directives of the Government, at least, with regard to home loan and also, not leave home loans to the market forces.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

#### **Demand to leverage the annual allocation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana**

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, my Special Mention is about leveraging the annual allocation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

Sir, the proposal emanated at the instance of Government of India through letters of Minister of Rural Development dated 29.05.2003 and Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development dated 21.04.2004. Government of Andhra Pradesh in consultation with the financial institutions submitted a proposal to Government of India for leveraging the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana to the tune of Rs. 900 crores in the State. Definite sanctions have been obtained from the banks for Rs. 500 crores. Projects worth Rs. 500 crores have already been submitted to the Government of India.

Government of India is now attempting to amend the Diesel Cess Act to enable the National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) to leverage Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

As the proposal is pending for long, I urge upon the Government to kindly take a final decision and approve the State Government's programme which has been submitted to the Government of India.

#### **Demand for special relief package for victims of Cyclone 'AILA'**

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Bihar): Sir, Darjeeling was struck by Cyclone Aila on 25-26 May, 2009 causing extensive damage in terms of lives lost, property destroyed and roads and highways washed away and more than thirty two lives were lost. The damage to the hill district's infrastructure has been immense and deserves a special consideration for relief and rehabilitation of the affected areas. Hence, the Prime Minister must send a special team separately and earmark separate funds