

मेरा माननीय रेलमंत्री जी से अनुरोध है कि इन परियोजनाओं के लिए आवश्यक बजट शीघ्र स्वीकृत करें। मुझे विश्वास है कि आपके समर्थन से कोल्हापुर क्षेत्र के लोगों को बहुत लाभ होगा।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik: Shri Devendra Pratap Singh (Chhattisgarh), Shri Govindbhai Laljibhai Dholakia (Gujarat) and Shri Dorjee Tshering Lepcha (Sikkim).

Demand for improving the service conditions of Gramin Dak Sevaks

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P (Kerala): Sir, Gramin Dak Sevak (GDS) is the backbone of the Indian Postal Service. The GDS plays a significant role in the functioning of India Post and contributes to various services such as Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI), Postal Life Insurance (PLI), the opening of India Post Payment Bank (IPPB) accounts, Sukanya Samriddhi Accounts (SSA) and Mahila Samman accounts. The GDS has developed remarkable marketing skills and goes beyond their duty hours to promote the services of the Department. Despite network issues, they start work early in the morning and work late in the evenings. They handle devices and mobile handsets provided by the Department. Recently, with the advent of the 'Bring Your Own Device' (BYOD) policy, many GDS are utilizing their smartphones for departmental work. However, the incentives announced are seldom availed by the majority of GDS involved in these activities. Therefore, it is imperative to regularize their services and confer departmental status on par with regular employees.

All are aware that most of the GDS staff work for more than 5-9 hours on an average. Hence, there is a justifiable rationale for absorbing them as departmental employees with all the associated benefits, including leave, House Rent Allowance (HR), Travel Allowance/ Daily Allowance (TA/DA), pension, medical facilities, education benefits, and other facilities without any discrimination.

I urge the Government to grant civil servant status to the Gramin Dak Sevaks, by increasing the working hours of all GDS branch post offices to eight hours from the existing four to five hours.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Pramod Tiwari: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala) and Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala).