

systems, engineering, design engineering, education and R&D, as also commercial applications where the objective is not labour saving or prestige. The policy of the Deptt. of Electronics is to encourage appropriate automation, so that employment opportunities are enhanced instead of being reduced, and at the same time efficiency increased.

Working Conditions of A.I.R. Artistes

2667. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether artistes of various categories are employed by All India Radio at its various Stations throughout the country;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of such employment;

(c) whether such artistes are treated on a casual/special employment basis without the benefits of Provident Fund, gratuity, pension, etc. accruing to them;

(d) the hours of work laid down for such artistes, and whether they are paid extra money for extra work; and

(e) whether the said artistes are also asked to do the administrative work at the various radio stations and if so, whether they are paid an additional allowance for such work?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir. All India Radio engages artistes of various categories for producing and presenting programmes and also for assisting in production of programmes on long term Staff Artistes contract.

(b) Such a Staff Artiste is initially engaged on three years contract. On completion of probation they are given a contract upto the age of 58

years. They are further continued upto the age of 60 years after a review. A copy of the agreement form entered into with the Staff Artistes is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-625/77.]

(c) Long term Staff Artistes are not treated on casual/special employment basis and they are entitled to contributory Provident Fund and gratuity, but they are not entitled to any pension. Some Artistes are engaged specially on casual contract basis and they are not entitled to these benefits.

(d) Staff Artistes of AIR are working normally for 7 hours per day either during office hours or in shifts. Staff Artistes are entitled to extra remuneration for additional work.

(e) Producers who are engaged on Staff Artistes' contract are required to do administrative work connected with presentation and production of programmes. Announcers are also required to perform the duties like filling in the log books, fault reports etc. (which are included in the duties prescribed for them) occasionally whenever necessary. As this forms part of their normal duties the question of payment of additional allowance does not arise. No Staff Artiste is engaged to perform only administrative work, except the category of General Assistants/Copyists, which is, however a dying cadre and no fresh recruitment is being made to these posts. The recruitment to these posts are now being made as clerks.

Beating up of Adivasis of Baroda District

2668. SHRI GANGADHAR APPA BURANDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Adivasis of Baroda district were beaten up with the help of police for refusing to contribute a thousand kilograms of silver which the Congress leader of Rangpur