

Proposed bringing of Gazetted Employees on Pay Rolls of non-Gazetted Employees

2151. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was any proposal under consideration of his Ministry to bring gazetted employees on the pay rolls of the non-gazetted employees to effect saving in paper and manpower;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been considered; and

(c) if so, the details of the decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) to (c). The Pay and Allowances of the gazetted employees in the Ministry of Defence (Sectt.), including its Defence Accounts Department and Ordnance Factories, are being drawn by the drawing and disbursing officers on the establishment pay bills as in the case of non-gazetted employees. Thus, the system of individual officers drawing their on bills had already been dispensed with.

In so far as Armed Forces Headquarters/Inter Services Organisations are concerned, the position is that in Air Headquarters accounts of Gazetted Officers are being maintained by the Controller of Defence Accounts (HQR) on individual Running Ledger Accounts System and therefore Officers of Air Headquarters are not required to prepare their own pay bills. In respect of officers serving in Army HQrs, Naval Headquarters and Inter-Services Organisations, the matter is still under consideration. However, as a sample study, pay bills of a few gazetted officers of Army Headquarters/Inter-Service Organisations whose offices are situated in one contiguous areas are being submitted in a consolidated form to the Controller of Defence Accounts (HQRs) but even in this case bills are consolidated separately for gazetted and non-gazetted employees.

Proposal for setting up a Refinery at Mangalore

2152. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that ESSAR group along with Hindustan Petroleum has applied for licence under Joint sector for issuing of licence to set up a refinery at Mangalore in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) The ESSAR group has applied to the Ministry of Industrial Development to set up a refinery at Mangalore.

(b) The application is for a refinery of a capacity of 3 million tonnes per annum with associated secondary processing facilities, and a naphtha cracker to be set up simultaneously.

Kerosene dealers in Bombay

2153 SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Kerosene dealers in greater Bombay;

(b) the quota allotted to each of them per month; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of applications for dealership are pending with Oil Corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) The Oil Companies have 99 kerosene oil dealers in Greater Bombay.

(b) The effort involved in compilation of the required details would not be commensurate with the purpose sought to be served.

(c) There are eight dealerships of SKO/LDO for which selections have yet to be finalised.

• Modernisation of Telecommunication System

2154. SHRIMATI USHA CHOUHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the projects for modernisation of telecommunication system in the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). It is proposed to modernise the telecommunication system through:

—induction of latest technology digital electronic switching systems as also digital microwave and fibre optic systems both in the local and long distance networks, an intensive exploitation of satellite facilities;

—induction of store and forward telegraph systems for eliminating excessive transit delays in telegraph working, a modern packet switched network for improved data communication as also provision of several new non-voice services such as videotex teletex etc.; and

—computerisation of auto-manual services in several multi exchange areas. The extent of induction of these programmes will depend upon the availability of adequate funds for the telecommunication services during the 7th Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Efforts to bring talented Jurists as judges

2155. SHRI JITENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether intelligent and talented jurists and advocates do not come

forward to take appointments in the High Courts due to which the posts of judges are lying vacant in various High Courts and Government have been facing difficulty in filling them; and

(b) what efforts are being made by Government to attract talented jurists and advocates to accept appointment as High Court Judges ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b). Appointments of Judges of the High Courts are made by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice and the Governor of the State and the Chief Justice of India. The process of consultation does take time. Careful consideration is given to the views expressed by the different constitutional authorities. Government makes every possible effect to fill the vacancies as expeditiously as possible and to select the best available talent among the eligible persons.

The question of appointing talented Advocates remains constantly in Government's mind. However the question of making the office a Judge more attractive in terms of service conditions if proposed to be considered in the forthcoming Conference of Chief Justices of High Courts, Chief Ministers and Law Ministers of the States.

[English]

Use of Natural Gas

2156. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN :

RAMJIBHAI MAVANI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry have received the proposal on suggestion from the "Voice of India" President regarding use of "Natural Gas" as the substitute for limestone and coke in the process of manufacturing sugar;

(b) whether USSR has developed this technology;