

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d). The Government have decided to set-up a National Commission on Rural Labour. The composition of the proposed Commission, and its terms of reference have yet to be notified and the Commission has not yet started functioning.

Strike by Junior Engineers of C.P.W.D.

122. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:
SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN
RAMJIBHAI MAVANI:
SHRI U.H. PATEL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Junior Engineers of CPWD have been on a work to rule strike for a long time;

(b) whether they have decided to go on all-India indefinite strike from July 14, 1987; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to settle their demands so far and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes. J.Es had been on work-to-rule strike since 12.3.87. They are on indefinite strike from 14.7.87.

(c) The Pay Commission has prescribed two scales of pay for Junior Engineers:

- (1) Junior Scale—Rs. 1400-2300.
(2) Senior Scale—Rs. 1640-2900

The Junior Engineers have been demanding that they should be given only one scale equivalent to the senior scale. The Pay Commission has awarded these two scales prescribing that 50% posts may be given to each. Considering the demand

of the Junior Engineers, the Government have decided that 25% posts for the junior scale and 75% for the senior scale may be prescribed.

The Junior Engineers second demand is regarding stagnation in their cadre. Government undertook a Cadre review and have decided that 559 posts of Assistant Engineers may be created in lieu of the equivalent number of posts of Junior Engineers to improve their promotion prospects.

Besides these two main demands, there were some other minor demands like confirmation and fixed travelling allowance. All cases of confirmation have been finalised. Fixed travelling allowance is already payable under the present Financial Rules.

Damage to cotton crop by 'white fly'

123. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of cotton crop affected by 'white fly' in the last three seasons and the estimated loss suffered by farmers in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat, year-wise;

(b) whether the cotton crop is covered by the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme of the General Insurance Corporation;

(c) if not, whether in view of the serious losses to farmers Government propose to include cotton crop under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The State Department of Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh, reported that during 1984-85, an area of 1.26 lakh hectares was affected by white fly. During

1985-86, an area of one lakh hectares of long staple cotton was reported to have been affected. During 1986-87, no serious incidence of white fly pest was reported in the State. The loss of farmers in the State was to the tune of 15,000 bales during 1984-85, 2 lakh bales during 1985-86 as per the estimates of the Andhra Pradesh Government.

In Karnataka, according to the State Government, no serious incidence of white fly was reported during 1984-85. However, during 1985-86, an area of 70,000 hectares was reported to have been affected. During 1986-87, an area of only 8,700 hectares was found to have been affected. The State Government assessed a loss of 1.52 lakh bales during 1985-86. The loss during 1986-87 was estimated to be only to the tune of Rs. 55.00 lakhs.

The Government of Gujarat reported the incidence of white fly on cotton only during 1986-87, when the losses due to combined effect of drought, wilt, white fly and other pests was estimated to be around 40%.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). The question of extending the Crop Insurance Scheme to cotton crop can be considered only after watching the performance of the scheme on the crops now covered by it.

Identification of new technologies applicable to electronic media

124. SHRI D.N. REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study is being made to identify the new technologies applicable to the electronics media; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A.K. PANJA):

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Identification and search for new technologies relevant and applicable to the electronic media, for improvement of service is a constant endeavour and regularly carried out through studies conducted in the R&D unit of AIR and Doordarshan and participation in the activities of National and International bodies/forums engaged in the study of contemporary technologies.

A Forward Looking Group consisting of 16 experts has also been constituted for advising the Ministry of I&B on a 10-year perspective plan, particularly, analysing the technological trends and their relevance and application to AIR/Doordarshan as also the short-term requirements of technological developments in the electronic media and examination of hardware and software requirements of AIR/Doordarshan.

Allotment of flats to the retired Government Employees

125. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI:
SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI
LAKSHMI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received so far by the Delhi Development Authority for allotment of LIG and MIG flats separately under the 1985 scheme exclusively for the Central Government employees, who had retired in the last three years or due to retire in the next three years; and

(b) the places selected for construction of flats and the time by which all of them are likely to be provided with flats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) 4091 public servants, 2695 under MIG category and 1396 under LIG category, submitted their applications to Delhi Development Authority. As the Scheme was meant for Public Servants, Delhi Development Authority