

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In answer to part (a) of the question the hon. Deputy Minister replied in the negative. May I know what is the number employed by the company itself?

Shri L. N. Mishra: 800 are departmental workers and 1720 are employed by contractors.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In reply to part (b) of the question: "whether there is any proposal to departmentalise labour performing work of a permanent nature", the hon. Deputy Minister has again replied in the negative. May I know what is the reason why in spite of the fact that almost all the workers are doing work of a permanent nature the majority of workers still remain on a contract system?

Shri L. N. Mishra: It is not correct to say that all are doing work of a permanent nature. We want that more and more should be departmental workers, but the contract labourers are unavoidable in certain circumstances.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Are we to take it that the majority of workers working under contractors are not meant for work of a permanent nature and are doing only seasonal work?

Shri L. N. Mishra: It is difficult to say. So far as the application of this benefit is concerned, there is hardly any difference between the departmental labour and contract labour. It depends upon the nature of work and the service conditions of individual workers.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Why then is it that the provident fund facilities are not being granted to them, and may I know what is the opinion of Government regarding this?

Shri L. N. Mishra: It may be that some of the contract labour might not be directly associated with the manufacture and production.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know what is the nature of work that is being done by contract labour at the iron ore mine?

Shri L. N. Mishra: I want notice

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: This is a matter of policy, whether there should be no contract labour at all, and if contract labour is entertained whether all the benefits of permanent labour ought to be given to them. Hon Members will reserve all this for the debate on the Demands for Grants relating to that Ministry.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: He has given wrong information

Mr. Speaker: Hon lady Member will correct it in her turn during that debate

All India Radio

*1256. **Shri Hem Barua:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether any principle has been laid down in the matter of payment to artists, script-writers, broadcasters of talks etc. in the All India Radio; and

(b) if so, what is the principle and whether any difference is made so far as Government servants are concerned?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shri A. C. Joshi): (a) Payment to broadcasters is according to the standard of their performance. As far as music is concerned, they are divided into various categories by the help of a regular Audition Board. Talkers are paid on the basis of individual merit and standing.

(b) Generally Government servants are paid limited fees which is not the same as those of broadcasters of other categories. Limits of payment to Government servants are laid down in consultation with the Finance Ministry. This is mainly as a check

to see that undue advantage is not taken of a person's being in Government service to get a more than usual share of broadcasting income. Employees of All India Radio are not entitled to any fees.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of what the hon. Parliamentary Secretary has said about government servants, may I know why it is that government servants and even the State transport motor workers who are radio artistes are paid a sum that does not exceed Rs 25 per contract, and there is this invidious distinction maintained between government servants and the rest of the artistes?

Mr. Speaker: I thought the hon. Member was going to ask why they are paid at all.

Shri Hem Barua: No, Sir; why should I?

Shri A. C. Joshi: Government servants being whole-time servants are not expected to look for other sources of revenue or income which may divert them from their duties. Also, government servants may be often in a position to undertake the work by virtue of their duties.

Shri Hem Barua: How is it, may I know?

Shri Ansar Harvani: Who decides the categories of talkers and broadcasters in the matter of payment?

Shri A. C. Joshi: The All India Radio.

Shri Ansar Harvani: Have you got a screening committee to decide their status in the matter of payment, or is it left to the sweet will of the directors of the All India Radio?

Shri A. C. Joshi: There is a committee of non-officials also to decide and to categorise the musicians, both in classical music and others.

Shri Ansar Harvani: I am talking of talkers and not of musicians.

Shri A. C. Joshi: The All India Radio Station Directors decide that

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether broadcasting fees vary from station to station, and whereas a broadcaster broadcasting from Delhi Station gets Rs 50, he gets only Rs 20 for doing the same thing from Gauhati?

Shri A. C. Joshi: I do not think so.

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, he has not answered my question.

Mr. Speaker: He says that he does not think so.

Shri Hem Barua: I am saying this from my personal experience.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member says that he is speaking from his own experience. The hon. Parliamentary Secretary will kindly make enquiries.

Shri Nath Pai: He is a victim of discrimination.

Tea Trade Delegation

*1257. **Shri Kumaran:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to send a tea trade delegation to the United States and other foreign countries to establish contact with trade interests there?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): There is no such proposal at present.

Shri Kumaran: May I invite the attention of the hon. Minister to an article in the *Journal of Industry and Trade*, which has suggested that if such a delegation is sent to the United States, it will be of help in improving our tea trade in USA and other countries, and may I know whether the Government will consider this suggestion?

Shri Satish Chandra: There has been no decline in tea trade as I said a few minutes ago, and in fact, our exports have increased. A delegation is being sponsored by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry to the United States of America in which the tea industry is also represented.