

Unemployment Insurance for Casual Workers

227. Shri S. C. Jha: Will the Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any arrangement for giving unemployment insurance benefit to the casual workers in the industrial sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation (Shri Bathi): (a) and (b). There is at present no Scheme of Unemployment Insurance for industrial workers. Every workman who has been in continuous service for not less than one year in an industry is, however, entitled to retrenchment compensation as provided under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Post Offices in rural areas

229. Shri A. Dipa:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri K. P. Singh Deo:
Shri Dhirendranath:
Shri G. C. Naik:
Shri D. Amat:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided not to open any new Post Offices in the rural areas in the near future; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Departments of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri I. K. Gujral): (a) and (b) Due to financial stringency restrictions have been imposed on the opening of new Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices except in border districts to meet political and Defence requirements. However, Branch Post Offices continue to be opened if interested parties undertake to reimburse the loss.

Reservation of S.C. and S.T in P & T Services

230. Shri G. Kuchelar: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any reservation of the Selective Posts in L.S.G. Cadre, P. & T. Services for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes prior to 1967;

(b) if so, the reasons for discontinuing the same;

(c) whether there is a demand from the P. and T. employees to recognise the All India Posts and Telegraphs Federation to represent the cause of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employees;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to meet their demand; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to safeguard the privileges of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Posts and Telegraphs Department?

The Minister of State in the Departments of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri I. K. Gujral): (a) Reservation of vacancies existed in promotion to one third of the vacancies in Lower Selection Grade in Post Offices, R.M.S. Foreign Posts, R.L.O. and in Telephone Exchanges filled by selection from 1964 to 1966, in accordance with the decision of the Government that such reservations should be made in Cl. III and IV posts where there is no direct recruitment and which are filled by promotion by selection.

(b) Reservation ceased when the element of selection in promotion to the Lower Selection Grade, except in Telephone Exchanges was abolished with effect from 1st January, 1967.

(c) and (d) No such demand has been received in the recent past. It is, however not the policy of the Government of India to recognise service Associations organised on the basis of caste, tribe or religion. Any and every Service Association recognised by