

basis, on the basis of working hours of an office and on the basis of actual number of telegrams handled. This will not only relieve the mental and physical strain on the workers due to over-working but will also increase and maintain the efficiency of the telegraph service in transmitting telegrams, both express and ordinary, in time.

(XV) REPATRIATES FROM SRI LANKA.

SHRI ERA ANBARASU (Chengalpattu): I wish to bring to the notice of this august House the pathetic condition of, and the poor treatment accorded to, Sri Lanka repatriates in our country, especially those who settled in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

As per the agreement between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Government of India in the year 1970 the repatriates are being sent to India year by year for settlement and rehabilitation in India. In the year 1970, 170 families were settled at Asthinapur in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Some of them were provided with employment in Madhan Industries Ltd., at Asthinapur. Nearly 3,000 families were settled at Guntakkal, Nellore, Rajamandri, Seeria, Vishakapatnam and Karimnagar in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Nearly 15000 families were settled in various places in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Employment opportunities are given to one person in the family even if the family consists of 10 to 15 members. The wages paid to them are only Rs. 3.05 per day. The wages are paid only on working days. Housing, water and medical facilities provided to them are very poor. They are made to live in small huts in remote corners of towns and cities. In spite of their repeated appeals, the concerned authorities have not chosen to take any steps to improve their condition. Hence, many families had to suffer

due to starvation, inadequacy of water and medical aid. It is reported that every day one person or the other is dying of starvation and lack of medical facilities. It was brought to my notice that so far nearly 5,000 people have died of starvation and lack of medical facilities.

When the repatriates brought their pitiable condition to the notice of Sri B. R. K. Shastri, I.A.S, Sub-Commissioner for Rehabilitation and Ex-officio Principal Secretary to the Government, Revenue (Rehabilitation) Department, Hyderabad, instead of considering their demand sympathetically, he issued a circular No. EOPS 20.80 dated 25-10-80 to the various collectors of Andhra Pradesh with some directions not to give any financial or other assistance to the Sri Lanka repatriates.

It appears he was so cruel and unkind as to instruct the concerned persons not to give any financial assistance even if there was any personal misfortune, death etc. It is worth mentioning here some of the averments in the circular:

"If there is any personal misfortune, the management should arrange for cremation or burial and should not give more than Rs. 10 for sundry expenses. If it is for medical assistance, they should purchase and arrange for transport like purchase of ticket etc. Under no circumstances a repatriate should be given more than Rs. 10 in cash for any purpose whatsoever."

Copies of this circular were also circulated to all the mill-owners, factory owners, farm owners etc., wherever these repatriates were employed. This resulted in inhumane treatment and harassment by the employers.

I understand that the Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 15,000

[Shri Era Anbarasu]

for each family towards rehabilitation and Rs. 6,000 for housing and medical facilities. It is brought to my notice that a sum of Rs. 1,90,00,000 was granted till now towards the repatriate rehabilitation grant. It appears that, in order to get the grants from the Government, many employers come forward to offer employment to the repatriates, but after getting the grants, they fail to provide proper wages, medical and water facilities as per the directions of the Government of India. The wage of Rs. 3.05 paid per day to a repatriate is very meagre and it is below the minimum wage prescribed by the Government of India. The sum of Rs. 200 which is paid for the construction of a tenement for the repatriate is also very meagre. Even a small hut cannot be constructed by spending Rs. 200.

Further, the policy of providing employment to one person in a family even if the family consists of 10 to 15 persons is erroneous and it has to be revised forthwith. The wages paid to them should also be revised and all the able-bodied persons should be provided with jobs, as it is done by the Government of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

If the repatriates make further demands, it appears that some of them are being beaten by the goondas engaged by the management, and they are made to run away. Many shattered families went to Tamil Nadu for employment and peaceful settlement. At present I understand that some of them are fasting in front of the office of the Collector at Madras demanding employment, but the Government of Tamil Nadu has refused to provide them any employment, and they were advised to seek a remedy only with the Government of India. Many families are left in the streets starving.

Hence it is a matter of urgent importance to bring this to the notice

of the hon. Minister of Supply and Rehabilitation for immediate action to save the lives of the unfortunate repatriates.

(xvi) DIFFICULTIES OF SEASON TICKET HOLDERS TRAVELLING FROM MATHURA RAILWAY STATION TO DELHI.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN (Chandni Chowk): Under Rule 377, I am making a statement:

The season ticket holders travelling from Mathura to Delhi are allowed on one of the two trains leaving Mathura in the morning. The Paschim/Deluxe Express and Qutab Express trains leave Mathura at 7.39 and 8.01 a.m. but the Qutab Express runs inordinately late almost daily. The season ticket holders are allowed on the Qutab Express only with the result that the commuters reach here very much late daily. They stand at Mathura station helplessly watching the Deluxe/Pashim Express going away at right time. The Paschim/Delux Express trains run almost punctually daily.

Hence, to alleviate their suffering, the season ticket holders may kindly be allowed on Paschim/Deluxe and G. T. Expresses, both ways.

(xvii) PROBLEMS OF M.E.S. CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES IN PORT BLAIR

EMPLOYEES IN PORT BLAIR

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Under Rule 377, I am making a statement:

M.E.S. Civilian Employees Union, Port Blair has represented time and again about their various problems to the Government of India through the concerned authorities for redressal but nobody in the Defence Ministry took it seriously and the matter remained pending for quite long time. Unfortunately no action was taken even on my letters. On behalf of the