

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, September 7, 1990/Bhadra 16,
1912 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at two minutes past
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues Shri T. R. Shamanna, who was a member of the Seventh Lok Sabha during 1980-84 representing the Bangalore South constituency of Karnataka. Earlier he had been a Member of Karnataka Legislative Assembly during 1967-79.

A veteran freedom fighter Shri Shamanna actively participated in the freedom struggle and was imprisoned for a long period.

An ardent political and social worker, Shri Shamanna was associated with several educational, charitable and religious institutions engaged in the upliftment of weaker sections of the society.

A man of letters, art and science, Shri Shamanna was a very simple, soft-spoken and an unassuming person. He left an indelible impression on the minds of those who came in contact with him. He also evinced

interest in sports like swimming and gymnastics.

An able parliamentarian, he took keen interest in the proceedings of the House and made valuable contributions thereto. Shri Shamanna also served on the Committee on Private Member's Bills and Resolutions as its member.

Shri Shamanna passed away at Bangalore on 30 August, 1990 at the age of about 78.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while)

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing you. Please take your seat.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Muster-Roll Employees in Doordarshan Kendras

*427. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state.

(a) the number of daily wages' muster roll employees working in various Doordarshan Kendras;

(b) since when such employees are working;

(c) the annual expenditure being incurred thereon; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to regularise their services?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (d) Daily Wages Muster-Roll employees are engaged by various Doordarshan Kendras depending on the exigencies of work. The number of such daily wages employees in different Kendras varies from day-to-day. There were 197 daily wages employees at various Doordarshan Kendras as on March, 1990.

The expenditure incurred on such engagement differs from Kendra to Kendra and the total expenditure is not centrally compiled. The information is being collected.

Daily Wages Muster-Roll employees are considered for regular appointment to Group 'D' posts on the fulfilment of the conditions prescribed by the Government from time to time.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the employees are considered for regular appointment on fulfilment of conditions prescribed from time to time. So, I would like to know from him ask what is this prescribed period. Is it one week, one month or one year? What is the specific period and what are the other conditions.

[*English*]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, mostly the boys are kept as Water Boys for seasonal work and we pay them at the rate of 1/30th of the pay at the minimum of the relevant pay-scale

plus the Dearness Allowance, for a work of eight hours a day, if they are working against vacancies which are of a permanent nature. Otherwise, they are governed by the Minimum Wages Act.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the Muster-Roll employees are considered for regular appointment to Group 'D' posts. So, I would like to know the number of employees in the Waiting list for regular appointment and the number of scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes employees among them.

[*English*]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, as I mentioned, the total number is 197. Regularisation takes place according to their entry because the first come they go last. I do not have the figures for Scheduled Castes and Tribes separately. I will write to the hon. Member.

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: Sir, it was told here that there are 197 as on today. But really speaking, there are various categories in Doordarshan or Akashvani and many of the employees are mostly temporary. Even transfers and promotions are done arbitrarily, at least they were done before your regime. So, before you hand over the whole thing to the Corporation, will you please rectify all the things and then hand over to the Corporation so that they will be happy while going to the Corporation?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, I have already indicated while replying to the debate on the Bill that we will sort out all problems before handing over to the Corporation. There are people in Class-III also, some artists, etc., who are of temporary nature and the Supreme Court has given an order that by November this year, we should prepare a scheme for their absorption, etc. It has been worked out

in consultation with the Department of Personnel and we will complete it within the time prescribed.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these temporary workers are put against the vacancies which are of a permanent nature for example on water-serving job. But it is often seen that in the next season the same workers are not employed for this work. So, whether Government would consider to issue instructions that in case the workers are engaged again for temporary work then the same workers should be employed for these works.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, this employment of casual labour and the rules governing their employment, etc. is not only confined to the Ministry of Information and the Doordarshan. But it is a broad matter concerning the Labour Ministry. I hope that my colleague in the Labour Ministry will take care of it evolve a policy.

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: Sir, we are opposed to casualisation of the workers and naturally, we want that the Government should take certain measures so that the casual workers are, by and large, absorbed in regular jobs. So, in this context, will the hon. Minister enlighten us as to what is the norm, as at present and not from time to time, of absorbing the casual and seasonal workers like *paniwallas* in regular jobs of the Government of India, particularly in Doordarshan?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: The same rule applies here as elsewhere, i.e., they should work for 240 days as casual workers. That is the minimum service. They should be engaged through the Employment Exchange. They should possess an experience of two years of continuous service as casual workers and he should have put in at least 240 days as casual labourer, including the broken period

of service during each of the two years of service. They should fall within the maximum age limit.

[Translation]

'SHRI RAM KRISHAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the Minister knows that the daily wages casual workers are given break in service so that they may not become eligible for regularisation of service. In this way they are not able to complete 248 days service. So these workers are exploited in this way. Whether Government propose to issue any instructions to ensure that such workers are not exploited in future and their services are regularised.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKATA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the casual and seasonal nature of work is an attempt for appointment in the back-door system. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether all those persons whom he has mentioned in the reply have been sponsored by the Employment Exchanges for recruitment in the casual nature of work or not. If not, how is he going to see that the Employment Exchanges comply with the orders for employment in his department in the Doordarshan?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: The number of persons is very small. The number is only 197 and I do not have the figures as to how many of them came through Employment Exchanges and how many of them have been employed directly. But the rule says that they have to be engaged through the Employment Exchanges. If that rule has been violated, then I have to ask my predecessor the reason for violation.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, I think the Minister knows that when the casual workers are taken on daily wage basis in a muster roll, they are taken for doing a particular job. I will give an example. Although a person is a graduate, he is taken as

a peon as there was a shortage of peon. But Sir, I have seen that they being utilised for higher post like assisting the camera man or even writing the script or correcting the script. Sir, all these 197 persons have put in more than five to ten years service in that higher post but when they are being absorbed, they are absorbed in the lowest category for which they have been taken. Has the Minister thought about solving this problem so that their experience is taken into consideration and they are absorbed in the higher category job in which they have been working so long?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, their experience will be considered while filling up the relevant posts. If they have got sufficient experience in the field, they will definitely be considered.

[Translation]

SHRI YUV RAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the daily wages workers employed in Jute Mills, the Public undertakings, are paid at the rate of rupees fifty per day. So, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will consider to bring about a wage parity between the casual workers' serving in Doordarshan and those serving in other organisations?

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I have already said that where the nature of the work entrusted to the casual worker and the regular employee is the same, they get 1/30th of the pay at the minimum of the relevant scale plus DA. Otherwise they get minimum wages as prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

T.V. Transmitter Relay Centre in Thanjavur Town, Tamil Nadu

*428. SHRI S. SINGARAVADIVEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the expected area of coverage by the low T.V. transmitter relay centre located in Thanjavur Town, Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether certain places at a distance of even 5 km. from the T.V. Transmitter, are not getting clear transmission;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to get the optimum use of the transmitter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Low Power (100 W) TV Transmitter at Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu, operating in UHF Band, has a service range of about 15 Kms. (inclusive of the fringe areas, where satisfactory reception is possible with the help of elevated antenna, boosters etc.). The TV transmitter at Thanjavur is reported to be functioning normally and providing satisfactory service within its expected coverage area, subject to availability of line of sight. Reception of this transmitter, however, is limited in its southern direction due to local terrain conditions. Besides, there have been instances of interruptions in the transmission from this transmitter mainly due to failure of power supply at the Centre. In order to minimise such interruptions, a diesel generator set has been provided at the Centre. Nonetheless, momentary interruption in service occurs each time the source of supply is changed from the mains to diesel generator and vice-versa.

SHRI S. SINGARAVADIVEL: Sir, there is a low power T.V. Transmitter which is in UHF Band. It is expected to cover an area of 15 Km but in some direction it covers only