

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, April 29, 1985/Vaisakha 9, 1907
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Amendment of CPWD Code

*631 SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether C.P.W.D. code has not been amended for the last 35 years ;

(b) whether work-charged workers, getting all allowances and benefits, available to the permanent workers, are called as work-charged workers, even after putting in service for about 40 years ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) No, Sir. The CPWD Code is being amended from time to time. The last amendment was made in August, 1983.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The workers in the work-charged establishment of CPWD are called 'work-charged', as their pay and allowances are charged to the works on which they are working.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are thousands of workers in the Works and Housing Ministry who are getting all the facilities like pension, gratuity, LTC, medical facilities and

general pool accommodation also. In a similar manner, all these facilities are being enjoyed by the work-charged workers also. I just do not understand why, when they are doing permanent nature of job—the job is permanent—they have been working for the last so many years and they are getting all the facilities, they have not been transferred to the regular establishment. My question is this. Is it not a fact that the work-charged workers are doing permanent nature of work and they can be transferred from one place to another place ; not only that, they can even be transferred from one city to another city ? The second part of my question is this. Is it a fact that, in the other Departments like the P&T, Civil Aviation, the Government of India Press, all industrial workers are taken on the basis of regular establishment ? Is it a fact that recently some lift operators, enquiry clerks and works assistants have been transferred from work-charged establishment to the regular establishment whereas many have been left and is there any plan to transfer the work-charged workers to the regular establishment ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : The main thing the hon. Member wants to know is this. The work-charged workers get all the facilities which the regular employees get. The only difference is this. For the work-charged workers their duration of service is 60 years whereas in regard to those who are regular employees their age limit is 58. This is the only and main difference. The pension is the same. Leave is the same. Everything is the same. The question is this. Why then are they not made permanent ? This the hon. Member wants to know. It is true that the difference is only minor. But there are a large number of workers themselves who want, 'No, we should be treated under work-charged staff.'

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : That is not correct.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : Under the leadership of the hon. Member.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : Secondly, there are three trade unions working there. Two of them want that they should be treated as they are being treated just now and one union led by my hon. friend wants that they should be treated as regular. I also consider that all of them should be brought together on the same desk and my officers are there and this matter can be thrashed out.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : It has nothing to do with the Union. My whole contention is that they are doing a permanent nature of job and when we talk about work-charged staff that does not sound a permanent job. When they are getting all the facilities and they are doing a permanent nature of work, then they should be definitely transferred to the regular establishment. The impression that is given to the hon. Minister, I don't think, is correct. I do not know whether the bureaucrats have given him this impression. I do not know who has given him this impression. As far as I am concerned, there is no dispute. The unions are all united on this issue that the work charged workers should be transferred to the regular establishment when they are doing a similar nature of work. When they are doing a permanent nature of work and when they are getting all the facilities which the permanent workers are getting and another thing, when they are transferable also from one city to another city, they should be shifted from work charged staff to regular establishment. My question has not been replied. My question is : whether there is any plan and is the Minister considering to transfer the work charged workers to the regular establishment in future ? I want a specific reply.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : I have already replied. I will call you. I will call others. I will ask the work charged staff. I will ask my officers to thrash out this matter. There is no big difficulty.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Do you agree that what I am saying is correct ? If you agree, you should accept it. There is no

question of calling me or other trade union leaders.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : Sometimes in human mind it occurs : if you give a little facility, what is wrong. The question of 2 years is not an ordinary thing. If I accept what you say, then their age limit will be reduced to 58. If the workers want, 'No, we should be treated as work charged staff.', then why let we give that facility to them, when we are giving them all the facilities that we are giving to the regular staff. Of course, their opinion will be considered. Whatever you have stated will be discussed across the table and I have got no objection in that.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : The hon. Labour Minister is sitting here. It is surprising that he does not feel alarmed.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This relates to Works and Housing. Why do you bring the Labour Minister here ?

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : You kindly tell us the number of persons who have been working in your Department for 240 days regularly. Does the law permit you to continue these persons as unconfirmed even after their having worked for 240 days regularly. Why have the Labour Department not initiated any legal action against your Department ?

You violate the law by keeping a person employed for 240 days but not making his permanent even after that period and showing him absent for one day and then declaring him 'work-charged', Kindly state whether such workers cannot get all those benefits which are available to permanent employees.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : I want to inform Shri Daga that they are governed by Factories Act. They can do all the work which is done by other factory workers. You think that they are declared absent for any day. It is not correct. They are given all the facilities which are given to other workers according to the Factories Act. I have spelt out all the facilities that are given to the regular workers and to

these workers. If you go into this you will find the work charged workers get more facilities than those enjoyed by regular workers. Even then what he has stated will be considered but the workers want themselves to be kept as work-charged. Their interest is kept in mind.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : His question was why the Labour Minister did not feel alarmed.

[English]

SHRI AZEEZ SAIT : Sir, CPWD being the biggest employer, I would like to know whether they are ready to treat the work charge employees on permanent roll. I know what is meant by work charge.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : This has been answered already through another supplementary.

SHRI AZEEZ SAIT : In the earlier supplementary my friend was asking about transferring them to the regular thing. My question is what is the difficulty in CPWD to convert these workers into permanent workers ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR ; I have already told that these workers who are charged under work charge their age-limit is 60 years. I don't find there is any ambiguity. I have also said earlier that the whole matter will be discussed across the table.

SHRI AZEEZ SAIT : Sir, mine is a simple question whether these work charged workers will be treated as permanent or not ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : They are all permanent in the sense that they are treated as permanent workers. They are getting all the facilities. Even they get additional facility, namely, their retirement age-limit is 60 whereas in the case of permanent employees it is 58.

SHRI RAJ MANGAL PANDE : The reply given by the Minister is that he is more concerned with re-conciliation than the legal obligation whereas he should feel that he is under legal obligation to make work charge in parity with the permanent workers. There is difference between work-charge and permanent workers. Work-charge means so long as there is work they are

on the charge and the moment the work is over they are out. So, I would like to know whether he will treat the work charge employees in parity with the regular ones. If he is giving them all the benefits then why is he not making them permanent ? It seems the hon. Minister is evading the question.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : There is no question of evading. In the beginning when this thing was brought as work-charge then the CPWD might have no continuous work for them at that time. Later on it has been found that the whole concept is just on the same basis as those who are regular employees.

They derive some more benefits by categorising them under work charged. Government has absolutely no hesitation if the hon. Member and trade unionists and workers want that they should be converted as regular workers.

Genetic Research in the Country

*634. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state ;

(a) whether there is a great scope for genetic research in the country;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this direction; and

(c) how far these are likely to result in promoting the research in this field ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) ;

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Genetic research has great relevance in crop and animal improvement besides medical, industrial and related areas. Indian Council of Agricultural Research which is concerned with crop and livestock improvement has established in different parts of the country as many as 22 Central Institutes for the improvement of crops, commodities and livestock species. Besides, a large number of All India Coordinated