

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Today, then, you will have to give me permission to ask three questions.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Sir, you will have to rule on an important matter. The hon. Member has disowned the question as it has appeared on the Question List. His question was totally different. How can it be answered?

MR. SPEAKER: He has not disowned it; he has not fully owned it.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: It is entirely in your discretion, Sir, to allow any questions to be answered. I would have no objection to answer any of the questions raised by him now.

Regularisation of Casual Artistes of A.I.R. and Doordarshan

†*206. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR:

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) how many casual artistes are working in Akashvani and Doordarshan;

(b) the period of service put in by them; and

(c) the reasons for not regularising their services?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b). Akashvani and Doordarshan have to engage artists on casual basis for their programme needs. Casual artists are appointed on short-term contracts on rotational basis, depending on the programme of a Station. They have no length of service as such in Akashvani and Doordarshan.

(c) Regularisation of Casual artists does not normally arise. However, the question of engaging such artists on

regular basis as have been working as Casual artists for long periods is being examined.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: I hope, the hon. Minister will answer some of the points mentioned in my original notice. He has not fully replied to parts (a) and (b) of the question even as it is printed now. I would like to know:

(a) How many casual artists are employed in the All India Radio?

(b) What is the period of the short-term contract, i.e. ranging from one day to how much period?

(c) The hon. Minister has said that these casual artists are appointed on short-term contracts on rotational basis. I would like to know, whether this rotational basis is being religiously, regularly and fully followed or it is being occasionally and sometimes more than occasionally, quite often, disturbed, and

(d) What is the long period and what is the short period?

Please reply to these questions.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: He has put 5 questions in all. First of all I would like to make it clear that the term casual artiste is a very wide term. It would cover even persons like Mr. Mavalankar if they appear on the radio for a talk. He is also a casual artist in the manner in which the term casual artist is used. The question of regularisation of casual artiste as such does not arise. It is therefore that the precise number of persons is not being given.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Members of Parliament are not casual artistes but they are regular artistes.

श्री लकपपा : अध्यक्ष महोदय (ब्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody can object that Mr. Lakkappa is a regular artiste.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: I would try to explain the matter because this matter comes up over and over again.

What I say would put the whole thing in proper perspective. There is a category of staff artistes who are regular artistes. There is another category of casual artistes. The term is too wide and it includes those who give occasional talks, who take part in symposium, in discussion, in drama and so on. All of them are casual artistes. They are engaged on a specific contract for a specific purpose, for a specific duration. Therefore, there is no question of trying to regularise casual artistes. It is only where there are certain vacancies that those vacancies are filled by casual artistes over a period of time and that period of time goes on extending and extending and it goes sometimes into two years, three years, four years or five years. Persons have been there as Production Assistants for 5 years, and as casual artistes. Immediately after this Government came into being this is one of the important questions to which this Government devoted attention. I asked the Ministry to work out a formula on the basis of which long-term casual artistes can be regularised. In the Ministry and in the Government till now the practice is, if there is a casual employee or casual labourer who has worked for 240 days in a year consecutively for 2 years he becomes eligible for regularisation. I felt that in the case of casual artistes in the All India Radio and the Doordarshan an extra liberal approach need to be adopted. And therefore a formula has been formulated by the Ministry which is currently under examination whereby casual artistes can be regularised on a more liberal basis. Even while this examination was going on, they started agitation saying that there must be regularisation irrespective of the period they have served and that even a person who has served only for 90 days has to be regularised.

The result would be that where there are only seven positions, there would be fourteen persons who had been rotating on those jobs. This is just not possible. This is the background of the agitation. I can assure

this House that the Government's approach in this matter is sympathetic. Government's approach is that a specific formula should be laid down in accordance with which the long term casual employees should be regularised.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: My second supplementary will be very brief. Will the hon. Minister kindly spell out at least in broad details the regularisations procedure and processes which he has in mind for converting the long term casual artistes into regular employees. I say this because— I am glad he gave the assurance— there is a feeling that the artistes are being exploited by the Government; they are being denied the regular holidays and other benefits. I do not, therefore, want the Janata Government to be guilty of exploiting the people from cultural fields—artistes and others—of this country. That is why I am asking this question.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: I can assure this House that there is no question whatsoever of any exploitation of artistes. In fact, I have emphasized the extra liberal approach because of this fact that they are artistes who are the persons of a particular stature working in a particular field. Therefore, a certain formula has been proposed. May be, the formulae do not fit in with the present policy of the entire Government because, presently, this is not the policy; they have their own policy *vis-a-vis* the other Ministries. I have just spelt out what it is. What I am proposing is something much more liberal. I would say that the matter is under consideration of the Department of Personnel. Therefore, it would not be proper for me to say anything.

श्री उपसैन : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, आकाशवाणी और दूरदर्शन में दो दरह के कैंजुअल आर्टिस्टस हैं। एक कैंजुअल आर्टिस्ट तो व हैं जो दिल्ली

सेन्टर में काम करते हैं, 10-12 साल से रेगुलर काम कर रहे हैं लेकिन उनका नाम कैंजुअल आर्टिस्ट्स में लिखा जाता है। हमारे लक्ष्मण साहब जो एक बड़े रेगुलर आर्टिस्ट्स हैं उनकी सरकार के जमाने से यह चले आ रहे हैं। दूसरे कैंजुअल आर्टिस्ट्स वे हैं जो जयपुर, बंगलौर, लखनऊ आदि सेन्टर्स में काम करते हैं जो कि तीन चार साल के हैं। क्या माननीय मंत्री जी मेरा सुझाव को मानकर जल्दी से चयन समिति बनाकर तीन साल पुराने कांग्रेसी राज के जो पाप हैं उनको धोयेंगे? हर सेन्टर की चयन समिति बनाकर वहाँ के कैंजुअल आर्टिस्ट्स उसके समझ जायें। यह नहीं होना चाहिए कि दिल्ली वाले लखनऊ में जाये, लखनऊ वाले पटना में जायें, कलकत्ता वाले बम्बई जायें, बम्बई वाले कलकत्ता जायें। जब तक क्षत्रिय आधार पर चयन समितियाँ बनाकर उनको चुना नहीं जाएगा तब तक उनको न्याय नहीं मिलेगा। क्या मंत्री जी मेरे इस सुझाव को मानकर जल्दी से चयन समितियाँ बनाकर पुराने तीस साल के कांग्रेसी राज के पाप को धोयेंगे।

श्री लालकृष्ण शर्मा : जो चुनाव समितियाँ बनती हैं वह क्षेत्रीय आधार पर ही बनती हैं। जिनका रेगुलराइजेशन होगा उनको वहीं पर जाना होगा, इधर उधर जाने का सवाल नहीं है।

Decline in Production Growth Rate

+

*207. SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN :

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether growth rate of industrial production has declined consi-

derably since the new Government has taken over in the Centre;

(b) if so, whether the main reasons for the decline in production are power shortage and industrial unrest in the country;

(c) whether some industrialists have also closed down their industries due to the labour unrest; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to increase the industrial growth rate in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) :

(a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d). According to general index of industrial production, the rate of industrial growth during April-August 1977 was 4.7 per cent as compared to 13.1 per cent during the same period in 1976, 2.7 per cent in 1975, 2.8 per cent in 1974 and 1.2 per cent in 1973.

Inadequate availability of power has affected industrial production. As regards industrial unrest although there have been reports of labour disputes in a number of units, the available information for the country as a whole does not show that their incidence has been greater than in previous few years.

Government is taking necessary measures to increase industrial production according to national priorities. The measures include creation of large additional power generation capacity, better utilisation of existing industrial capacity in critical sectors and promotion of harmonious industrial relations in the country.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, I wish to draw your attention to one thing.