

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 CI, 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

the Government legitimately represents the S. C. & S. T. employees who are members of the Association.

(e) In accordance with the standing instructions of the Ministry of Home Affairs, all cases of supersession of such officials in promotion based on seniority-cum-fitness are reported to the Minister so as to ensure that no official belonging to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes is superseded without adequate justification.

Article published in a Telegu Paper and its effects

231. Shri Chittamani Panigrahi: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether report has reached the Government that because of an article published in 'Andhra Prabha' a Telegu paper in Andhra Pradesh maligning the Oriya people, neighbourly relations between Telegu and Oriya people have been seriously affected;

(b) if so, the action taken against the writer, the printer and publisher of the paper;

(c) whether the Government of Orissa have drawn the attention of the Home Ministry to this effect; and

(d) if so, the action the State Government has suggested?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Vidya Charan Shukla): (a) It has been reported that the publication of the article "Festivals and Festivities in Oriya Villages" in the 'Andhra Prabha' dated 10th April, 1967 caused some unfortunate reactions in certain quarters in Orissa.

(b) The editor of the paper has published an unconditional apology in the 23th April, 1967 issue of the paper for having caused pain to Oriya people unwillingly and he had also personally sent an explanation to the Chief Minister of Orissa. A letter from the author of the article expressing regret for the unfortunate reaction to the publication of his article

was also published in the 7th May, 1967 issue of the paper. It is also understood that the matter has been brought to the notice of the Press Council of India by the Government of Orissa.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Panchayat Samiti Offices in Orissa

232. Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri K. Pradhani:
Shri Heerji Bhal:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Panchayat Samiti Offices in Orissa provided with telephones as on the 30th April, 1967; and

(b) the number of Panchayat Samiti Offices in the State to be provided with telephones during 1967-68?

The Minister of State in the Department of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri I. K. Gajral):

(a) The number of places in Orissa with Panchayat Samities, which have telephone facilities as on 30-4-67 is 142. At all these places, telephones can be provided to Panchayat Samiti offices if asked for.

(b) The number of places in the state with Panchayat Samities that are proposed to be provided with telephone facilities in 1967-68 is 15.

Educated unemployed persons in Orissa

233. Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri K. Pradhani:
Shri Heerji Bhal:

Will the Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated unemployed persons in Orissa as on the 30th April, 1967; and