

Gujral, I would request Dr. Ram Subhag to reply to this question. May I know whether it is a fact that the postal employees have been arrested only under section 188 of the IPC and section 5 of the ordinance. None of the cases involves moral turpitude? As such will he kindly consider withdrawing the suspension notices till the court cases are decided and also take back the temporary employees who have not been given an opportunity to fight their court cases?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : It is a request, not a question. If he wants a reply, the total number of people who had gone on strike in our department was 1.33 lakhs. The number of cases where action has been taken so far is only about 1100. That will show how lenient we are and what a compassionate attitude we are taking.

INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
OF PARLIAMENT

98. **SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK :** Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any progress has been made to resolve the deadlock between the Government and the Opposition Parties regarding the functioning of Informal Consultative Committees of Parliament; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) and (b). The House was informed in reply to Starred Question No. 1054 on the 4th April, 1968 that the working of Informal Consultative Committees would be reviewed after the conclusion of one year. The position is under review.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : When it suits the ruling party these committees remain the close confine of the ruling party only, so that they cannot work effectively. But in private suggestions have been made and certain things have been said that these and these things will be done. May I know whether it

is a fact that the government considers that these Committees can be made more effective if they are made formal and not informal? When they are made formal they can meet regularly, not only during the session but also during inter-session for longer periods. Then, whatever decisions are taken in these committees should be normally binding on the Ministries and the minutes and decisions taken at these meetings should be circulated among the members. May I know whether any such decisions have been taken or any such proposals are under the consideration of the government?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : Actually, these committees are not the close preserve of the ruling party, as has been suggested by the hon. Member. Members belonging to various groups are attending these meetings.

श्री रवि राय : अभी तो सिर्फ रुलिंग पार्टी जाती है, हम लोग कोई नहीं जा रहे हैं, हम ने बायकाट किया हुआ है।

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : Act-leader of the SSP would care to look at the attendance register he will see that every party has contributed to the working of these committees. As regards improvement in the working of these committees, we have advised all Ministries, excluding Defence, Atomic Energy and External Affairs that they should circulate the minutes of the meetings of the informal consultative committees to members. The Ministries were further advised that if on a particular issue there was a general consensus of opinion it should normally be accepted and, if there was any difficulty in doing so, the reasons for non-acceptance of that view should be explained to the members of the informal consultative committee. Over and above these two points, we have been taking particular care that the functioning of these committees is made more effective. As regards conveying the meeting during the inter-session period, we are not particular of having it only during the session time. Some committees, like the informal consultative committee, go to the spot and inspect projects and meet

wherever the Minister and the members of the committee feel convenient. The other committees could also meet whenever the need is felt either by the members or the Minister, even during non-session period.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : I asked a specific question whether you propose to remove the word "informal". Because, if it is a formal committee, it will meet regularly and take decisions in a business-like manner. I want to know whether you agree to this or not.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : I am sorry, I am not in a position to delete the word "informal" at the moment.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : इन अनौपचारिक सलाहकार समितियों का निर्माण जिस समय हुआ था, मेरा अपना अनुमान है कि उस के शायद दो कारण रहे होंगे — एक तो यह कि संसद बहुत से विषयों पर विस्तार से विचार नहीं कर पाती और दूसरे यह कि सरकार और उससे सम्बन्धित मंत्री भी अपना मन खुलकर संसद में प्रकट नहीं कर पाते क्योंकि एक प्रकार से ये चर्चायें सार्वजनिक रूप ले लेती हैं। इसी लिये शायद इन अनौपचारिक सलाहकार समितियों का निर्माण हुआ था। लेकिन इन में जिन विषयों की चर्चा होती है, वे प्रायः सभी विषय इस प्रकार होते हैं जिनका संसद से सम्बन्ध होता है। इन के सदस्य संसद के सदस्य ही होते हैं, इस लिये सरकार को वैधानिक कोई कठिनाई न हो तो समिति में किये गये अधिकांश निर्णय कार्यान्वित किये जाएं, यदि उन के कार्यान्वयन में कोई कठिनाई हो तो वह भी उस समिति में बता दिया जाय। क्या इस विषय में सरकार कुछ विचार कर रही है।

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : उसी विषय में मैंने कहा है कि जो कन्सेन्सस उन कमेटीज की मीटिंग्स में होंगे, उन को कार्यान्वित किया जायेगा। अगर कहीं कोई कठिनाई होगी तो उसके बारे में स्पष्टीकरण कर दिया जायेगा कि अमुक कठिनाई है। हमारा इरादा है

कि जिन उद्देश्यों के चलते इन कमेटियों का निर्माण किया गया था, उन उद्देश्यों को पूरी तरह से परिपालित किया जाय।

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : These informal consultative committees have become too big, flabby and ineffective. Therefore, there was a very positive and substantive proposal by the Opposition that they should be formed into small compact committees. The latest compromise formula given by Professor Ranga and other leaders of the Opposition was that at least in respect of the four important departments compact small committees should be formed. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is prepared to give a consideration to it and accept the proposal or whether the Minister is prepared to do as he likes without obtaining any co-operation from the Opposition.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : As regards the advice tendered by the Opposition leaders, particularly Rangaji, Shri Nath Pai and Shri Masani, that we limit the membership of these committees to one particular ministry, each Member of Parliament has been requested to give preference for only one committee though, of course, he can attend another also if he is very keen. Therefore the number of a particular committee has considerably gone down. It is varying between 30 and 40; so, it is not big, as has been pointed out, at present. As regards those four committees, I am sorry, I am not prepared to accept it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**बिहार में चौथी योजना के दौरान
नलकूपों का लगाया जाना**

92. श्री क० बि० मधुकर : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने चौथी पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान बिहार में 50,000 नलकूप लगाने की योजना बनाई है।