

interests over there. This was published in all the newspapers, that the property which was there was confiscated during the time of emergency. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has got any assessment made as to what were the amounts and what was the cost of the property which was confiscated by Pakistan.

Shri Swaran Singh: That is a question not connected with these persons, but on that issue I have already made a statement that the Pakistan Government has taken action under the Enemy Property Act to take into custody property, both movable and immovable, belonging to Indian nationals and corporate bodies, and that restriction still continues.

श्री हुकम चन्द कश्यप : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिस अवधि में यह 3500 लोग परमिट या लाइसेंस लेकर गये थे उसी अवधि में पाकिस्तान से हमारे देश में कितने लोग आये थे और उनमें से हमने कितने लोगों को नजरबन्द किया था और कितनों को जाने दिया गया था।

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : इसके लिये तो तारीखें हैं और खास तारीखों की परमिटें हैं। अगर माननीय सदस्य नोटिस दें तो मैं बतला सकता हूँ।

Wage Board for Cantonment Board Employees

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- *923. **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All-India Cantonment Board Employees' Federation at its seventh annual conference demanded the appointment of a wage board for cantonment employees;

(b) if so, whether they have also demanded an immediate 25 per cent ad hoc increase in wages; and

(c) if so, Government's decision on these demands?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri A. M. Thomas):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matters are under the consideration of Government.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know when their present pay and allowances and pension benefits were last considered and is there any provision under the rule to revise these rates to neutralise the rising prices, and are the present rates quite sufficient?

Shri A. M. Thomas: This National Tribunal was constituted in 1958 and the award was given in 1960, and it was brought into effect also from 1st April, 1959. The award has been in force till 2nd April, 1963, and those terms are still being continued to be in force.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether the All-India Cantonments Board Employees' Federation in their last meeting have pledged to boost production and wage a war against anti-national and unsocial elements in this country, and in the circumstances, may I know whether revision of their scales of pay, etc., is going to be considered, especially when they are of the same category as the Kanpur Cantonment Board employees?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Because our own citizens happen to be employees and are patriotic, they should not expect any financial benefit because they are patriotic.

Mr. Speaker: This Hall is so constructed that all Members can hear a Member speaking only if he keeps his face towards the Speaker.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The hon. member said that the award was in force

till 1963. I have already said that the terms are still in force. The question whether there should be another tribunal or wage board or anything like that is under consideration.

Shri P. C. Borooah: My second question has not been answered, whether they have pledged to boost production and other things.

Shri A. M. Thomas: They have done as other employees.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सन् 1960 में जो बढ़ाई दिया गया उसके अनुसार क्या कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था इन एम्प्लायीज के लिये की गई थी कि उनके वेजेज वगैरह में सुधार किया जा सकता। उनको क्यों इस बात की आवश्यकता पड़ी और किन हालात में उन्होंने बेज बोर्ड की मांग की। यदि कोई व्यवस्था थी तो क्या थी और क्या वह ठीक तरह से फंक्शन नहीं करती थी। इस पर बिचार कब तक पूरा हो जायेगा ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: This tribunal about which reference has been made have based their conclusions mainly on the basis of salary scales obtaining in the neighbouring municipalities. Mainly on that basis the award of that tribunal has been given. They have now asked for the appointment of another tribunal, which, as I said, is being considered. In fact, talks have also been conducted at the secretariat stage. The hon. Defence Minister will also be meeting the representatives of the Federation regarding this.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: By what time will this consideration be completed?

Shri A. M. Thomas: In fact, the Minister should have met them on the 18th of last month. But it was inconvenient for Shri Vidyalankar, who happens to be the President of the Federation, to come for discussions. There will be discussions in the near future.

श्री भागवत लाल शर्मा : क्या यह सब नहीं है कि पिछली बार जब ट्राइब्यूनल के आघार पर उनको वृद्धि दी गई थी तब से आज तक के दिनों में कीमतों में काफी वृद्धि हो गई है, जिसके कारण प्रायः सभी व्यक्तियों को, यहां तक कि 2500 रु० तक पाने वालों को 500 रु० डिग्रनेस भलाउन्स दिया गया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब तक दूसरी ट्राइब्यूनल नहीं बैठा दी जाती तब तक क्या उनकी तदर्थ मांग को सरकार स्वीकार कर लेगी।

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is true that there has been increase in the cost of living and other expenses. That is why this matter is being considered *de novo*. The salary scales of the cantonment employees should have some relationship with the salary scales existing in the municipalities of the various States. A suggestion has been made that, that may be gone into. If any increase has to be made to make it on a par with the salary scales in the municipalities, that has to be done. These things have to be discussed with the representatives of the Federation.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the 1959 tribunal increased the salary in the form of DA only?

Shri A. M. Thomas: There has been a general improvement in the emoluments as a whole.

श्री बसणल सिंह : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार कोई ऐसा स्टेटमेंट रखेगी कि जो प्रतिरक्षा कर्मचारी दूसरे महकमे के हैं उनमें और इनमें कितनी डिस्प्रिटी है। क्या इन लोगों को डी० ए०, टी० ए० और तन-क्वाह की वही सुविधायें प्राप्त हैं या उनसे कम हैं ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I have already said that this is being considered and suitable decisions would be taken. In this matter, we cannot compare it with the salaries and scales of Cen-

tral Government employees. Of course, that also would incidentally be taken into consideration. Persons doing a similar job are the persons employed by the municipalities in the various States. Therefore, there should be some relation between the salary scales of the cantonment employees and the employees in the various municipalities.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Is the hon. minister aware that all the rules and regulations governing the service conditions in the matter of disciplinary action, etc. which are applicable to defence employees are applicable to the cantonment board employees also? They get the disadvantages but not the advantages of the defence employees. What steps do government contemplate to take to remove this discrimination and bring them on a par with the defence employees for all purposes?

Shri A. M. Thomas: In the first place, they cannot be classified as Central Government defence employees. They are employees of the cantonment board. Of course, certain rules of service applicable to the Central Government employees are also applicable to them. But that does not mean that the same conditions of service should also be made applicable to them.

Shrimati Akkamma Devi: The Cantonment Act of 1924 framed for the convenience of the British people still continues, after 18 years of independence, causing serious problems not only to the employees but to the civilian population. May I know whether Government will amend this Act suitably to help them?

Shri A. M. Thomas: This is a general question which is being considered. Now, with regard to the amenities of persons residing within the limits of Cantonment Boards, we are making *ad hoc* grants according to the requirements of various Cantonment Boards. Apart from that, as questions arise, we consider them on their merits. We are also not quite

satisfied with all the conditions that are obtaining in the various Cantonment Boards.

Shri A. V. Raghavan: May I know whether it is a fact that the salary scales of these employees vary from State to State; if so, whether Government will make the Central scales applicable to these employees?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I have already stated that it may not be possible to bring it on a par with the Central scales. I have said that the tribunal which has gone into this question has taken into account, broadly, the scales of pay applicable to similar categories of employees in the neighbouring, comparable municipalities.

Recall of Pak. Infiltrators

*925. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has refused to recall the infiltrators;

(b) if so, whether this matter has been referred to the U.N. Security Council; and

(c) if so, with what results?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) As I informed the House on February 21, 1966, we have definite information that Pakistan called upon the infiltrators to return.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to a Press news in the *Times of India* and other papers that recently some saboteurs have been sent to Kashmir Valley by Pakistan, including some armed infiltrators. I want to know whether there is any truth in this news; if so, may I know the steps taken by the Government in this matter?