

(c) what are its recommendations; and

(d) the number of workers employed in studios, processing laboratories, distribution trade and in cinemas?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Report is under preparation.

(c) Does not arise at this stage.

(d) The statistical information is being collected. The following figures of employment have been reported in a non-official publication:—

Studios, Processing Laboratories & Production	..	20,000
Distribution	..	10,000
Exhibition (Cinemas)		82,000
Total		1,12,000

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know who are the members of this Study Group and when the study Group was appointed?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The Study Group was appointed in December, 1965. The names of its members are:

- (1) Dr. B. R. Seth, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- (2) Shri D. G. Kale, Commissioner of Labour, Government of Maharashtra.
- (3) Shri D. R. Khanna.
- (4) Shri S. N. Ray
- (5) Shri Kamlatnam.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What was the last name?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I am sorry, my pronunciation is not good. It is Kamlatnam.

Shri D. C. Sharma: From the names read out by the hon. Deputy Minister I gather that all these members are Government officers. May I know why any representative of employers and employees and Lok Sabha has not been taken on this Study Group?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: This is a Study Group which will go into the various technical aspects of the working. After their report is received, it will be studied and then later on, if necessary, they will also be associated.

Shri R. S. Pandey: May I know how much of time it would take to submit its report?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: They have made good progress and we hope that the report will be ready in another four or five months.

12.00 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Civil Engineers of Lignite Corporation

S.N.Q. 16. Shri S. Kandappan: Will the Minister of Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Civil Engineers of Neyveli Lignite Corporation have sent an appeal to Government against their proposed retrenchment with effect from the 31st March, 1966;

(b) whether this appeal has been considered; and

(c) whether there is any scope for accommodating them in other public sector enterprises?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Mines and Metals (Shri S. A. Mohd): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Government are making all efforts to absorb them in other Public Sector Undertakings or Departments of Government. As a result, 42 of the

surplus civil engineers have already been absorbed. In addition, 47 civil engineers, including 35 who have been served with retrenchment notices have since received offers of appointments.

Shri S. Kandappan: May I know how many of the civil engineers are yet to be accommodated and whether there is any scope for them to be absorbed in the public sector enterprises?

Shri S. A. Mehdi: About 25 to 30 people are still to be accommodated, and it is expected that they would also get offers very soon.

Shri S. Kandappan: In the appeal that they have made, they have stated that even after they have been served with notices of retrenchment, there have been cases in other public sector enterprises where they have called for fresh recruitment. I would like to know whether that is a fact, and if so, whether it is not advisable for the Government to form a civil engineers' pool where they could absorb all these surplus engineers?

Shri S. A. Mehdi: All these various public undertakings have been asked to take these surplus engineers from Neyveli

Shri Ranga: What is the use?

Shri S. A. Mehdi: The Bureau of Public Enterprises has also been asked to look into this matter. The suggestion that has been made by the hon. Member will also be considered.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: What is the total number of engineers who will become surplus in the Neyveli project, and may I know whether those for whom no alternative appointment has been made available in other public sector undertakings would be made to work there till such alternative appointment is made available?

The Minister of Mines and Metals (Shri S. K. Dey): I do not know whether this House will expect a public sector economic corporation to carry on its rolls people who have no work, without serious detriment not merely to the economy in that sector but also to the morale of the people in general.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: He has not replied to my question. What is the total number involved?

Shri S. K. Dey: 248 civil engineers will prove to be surplus in all.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या सरकार ने इस बात पर गौर किया है कि हाइलीपेड टेकनिकल हैंड्स इण्डिया में बहुत थोड़े हैं और उनके साथ सरकार ऐसा सलूक करती है कि जब चाहे नोटिस दे दिया जब चाहे रख लिया था या जब चाहा निकाल दिया और क्या इनकी परमानेंस सर्विस के लिए इन्तजाम हो रहा है या खाली वे घबरीका और इंग्लैंड में ही जाकर नौकरी करते रहेंगे ?

Shri S. K. Dey: I would like the House to appreciate the fact that in every project there is a construction phase and there is a production phase which starts soon after the completion of the construction phase. There is always trouble in regard to the civil engineers who prove surplus after the construction phase is over. In an expanding economy, they can always be absorbed, but during the last one year, the House is fully aware of the drastic slackening of the tempo of construction activities to which we have been subjected.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that the services of so many of these engineers were terminated on the 31st March, 1966 and they have not been offered alternative employment? I would like to know whether their service will be treated as continuous service for the purposes of seniority and other things.

Shri S. K. Dey: I presume they should be.

श्री काशी राम गुप्त : जिन 248 इंजीनियरों को हटाने का नोटिस दिया है वह कितने वर्ष से वहां काम कर रहे थे और क्या उनकी यह शर्त थी कि उनको जब चाहें तब हटाया जा सकेगा ?

Shri S. K. Dey: The question of giving notice to 248 engineers straight off does not arise because only 85 engineers have so far been served notice; of them, the bulk has already been absorbed or have been given alternative offers. The rest of them are being continued, and there is work for them for at least a year.

श्री काशी राम गुप्त : मैं प्रश्न किया था कि कितने वर्षों से वहां काम कर रहे थे इसका जवाब नहीं दिया है ?

Shri S. K. Dey: They have been working. The seniormost of them who are engineers are about 8-10 years in service and the juniormost have about 2½ years. Similarly, there are overseers or diploma-holders who also have the same seniority so far as the seniormost of them are concerned and same juniority so far as the juniormost of them are concerned.

Shri Priya Gupta: Since most of these works under the Government of India are done under different Ministries and there is a Cabinet decision on certain matters, could they not have a combined pool and plan out the projects so that attempts may be made in time to absorb those who are declared surplus in one place, without giving them termination of service notice and then rushing in to see if they could be absorbed elsewhere? What is Government's thinking on this matter?

Shri S. K. Dey: This is exactly the thinking of Government. In fact, only recently we had a meeting of all the managing directors and chairmen of

public sector enterprises under the Ministry of Mines and Metals with which also we had the association of representatives of the Bureau of Public Enterprises. This has been the decision. But if the plans for some unforeseen reasons...

Shri Priya Gupta: Planned way.

Shri S. K. Dey : . . . get disturbed, then everything else will go awry.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: Is the Minister aware that in his own Government, in the Education Ministry, there is a scheme of a pool of scientists and highly qualified technical personnel where people are paid even without work in view of their qualifications? Is he thinking of forming some such pool for qualified engineers so that they are not thrown on the streets one fine morning?

Shri S. K. Dey: I can very humbly state that this is outside the purview of a humble Minister who deals only with underground materials.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: May I remind the new Minister—new to this portfolio, I mean—of what the then Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, used to say that India having entered the technological, even atomic age, the Government or the Planning Commission would maintain a register of all trained scientific technical personnel and engineers so that there would not be any kind of waste of talent or brain drain or flight of talent from this country? Is that register being maintained so that there is no unemployment among these technical personnel?

Shri S. K. Dey: To my knowledge, that is being done.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What is being done?

Shri S. K. Dey: Register is being maintained.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Then how is there so much unemployment? I asked 'so that there is no unemployment'.

Mr. Speaker: He asked about the register.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: So that there is no unemployment of technical personnel. Is he in a position to say that? Or does he want notice?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Let him say he wants notice. You could help us, help the country.

Mr. Speaker: Everytime I do, but sometimes it does not fructify.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Ministers do not obey you.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: While appreciating the basic knowledge that he has given to us regarding expanding economy and the production and construction stage, may I know why it could not be possible for Government and for the Minister to deal with the upper-ground material like human material and co-ordinate so that of the 248, the 80 who have been served notice at one place may be absorbed in construction work in other places without loss of time? Why is this co-ordination not there?

Shri S. K. Dey: I am very sorry that the hon. Member obviously has not followed the answers which have already been given only this morning. That is exactly what is being done.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: I am very sorry the hon. Minister has not followed my question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. This should not go on.

Shri Daji: The Minister explained that in an expanding economy the construction phase in any industry must always end. By the same logic, in an expanding economy, the construction stage in another industry must also be simultaneously started. Therefore, if there is some delay

before you can absorb them, is there a proposal to maintain and keep them on the register, give them pay, so that the nation may not lose the technical services of experienced engineers?

Shri S. K. Dey: I do not believe there is any such proposal.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: This is not the way of answering.

Shri Daji: The reply is given in such a cavalier way.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The Minister may be new, but . . .

Mr. Speaker: The Minister might repeat that answer.

Shri S. K. Dey: I said that there is no such proposal yet.

Shri D. C. Sharma: The hon. Minister has dealt with two phases, the construction phase and the production phase. May I ask whether, when his Ministry is passing from the construction phase to the production phase and when it is going from underground to upperground, it understands what number of people will be surplus so far as the construction stage is concerned, what number of people will be employed, and what number of people will be made use of in other projects?

Shri S. K. Dey: I am deeply appreciative of the spirit underlying the question. The Ministry does not go from construction stage to production stage. The different public sector enterprises do stop from the construction phase to the production phase, and this is a continuing affair among the public sector enterprises. The Ministry is keeping a very close track of its employees, particularly the technical employees, and we shall do everything possible to see that people who are likely to be rendered surplus can get an opportunity to get absorbed in other undertakings.