

श्री शाहनवाज खां : यह बड़ा लम्बा चीड़ा सवाल है। मैं इतना ही कह सकता हूँ कि कोई ऐसी खास हवा नहीं फैली है।

Reversion of Executive Engineers in C.P.W.D.

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SNQ. 23. {
 Shri Nambiar:
 Shri Yashpal Singh:
 Shri A. V. Raghavan:
 Shri Pottekkatt:
 Shri Mohammed Koya:
 Shri Sivamurthi Swamy:
 Shri Indrajit Gupta:
 Shri Shinkre:
 Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
 Shri Rajaram:
 Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:
 Shri Biren Dutta:
 Shri Dasaratha Deb:
 Shri Buta Singh:
 Shri Gulshan:
 Shri P. K. Deo:
 Shri Vishram Prasad:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Shri P. K. Ghosh:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seven Executive Engineers of the C.P.W.D. with 8 to 13 years of service working in different parts of India and Andamans have recently been reverted as Assistant Engineers;

(b) whether these reversions were ordered to give room to class I directly recruited Officers;

(c) whether the recommendations of the Study Team on the Central Public Works Department were considered viz that of eligibility period of 5 to 8 years of service before their promotion; and

(d) whether many more such reversions are in the offing for the same purpose?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development (Shri Bhagwati): (a) Yes. It

is a fact that seven officiating Executive Engineers who were promoted temporarily during or after September, 1965 have been reverted as Assistant Engineers.

(b) The reversions of the seven officers concerned were ordered for the following reasons:

- (i) 3 officers sent on deputation outside the Central Public Works Department have returned to the parent department after completing the period of their deputation;
- (ii) 2 officers have returned from leave;
- (iii) One Division has been closed on completion of work, rendering one Executive Engineer surplus; and
- (iv) One class I Assistant Executive Engineer has completed the prescribed service in his grade and has to be promoted.

Thus only one officer was reverted to make room for a directly recruited class I officer.

(c) The Govinda Reddy Study Team on the Central Public Works Department had recommended that the eligibility period for promotion of Class I Assistant Executive Engineers to the grade of Executive Engineers, which was originally fixed at five years and was subsequently relaxed to three years, should again be fixed at five years. Similarly the Team recommended that the original eligibility period of eight years for Class II Assistant Engineers for promotion to the grade of Executive Engineer, which was subsequently relaxed to five years, should also be restored to the original period of eight years. This recommendation has been accepted by Government; but owing to the shortage of qualified officers, both in class I and class II, it can only be implemented gradually.

(d) The Establishment of the Central Public Works Department is regulated according to the workload of

construction and maintenance handled by the Department from time to time. If as a result of the need for economy in expenditure on civil works, the workload decreases, the establishment will have to be adjusted accordingly.

Shri Nambiar: Arising out of the answer that six posts were given to those who returned from other departments or who returned from leave, may I know whether other vacancies were also available for these men but were not utilised as they are reserved for Class I officers who have not yet completed five years' service?

Shri Bhagawati: It is not so. As a matter of fact, we have promoted a large number of assistant engineers, that is, Class II, as executive engineers in excess of the admissible quota. I can give the figure.

Shri Nambiar: My question was different.

Shri Bhagawati: 250 assistant engineers were promoted as executive engineers temporarily as against 68 from the Class I side though, according to the quota fixed, they are entitled to more.

Shri Nambiar: The recommendation of the Study Team is very clear. It says that the eligibility period of five years of service as assistant executive engineer and eight years of service as assistant engineer for promotion as executive engineer should be restored at the earliest stage. That is recommendation No. 20, which the hon. Minister says has been accepted. If that is so, then what stands in the way of allowing these directly recruited men to complete five years of service before they are promoted as executive engineers? That is a very important post which cannot be given to inexperienced men.

Shri Bhagawati: Government have accepted the recommendation of the Study Team. But I would request the hon. Member to please note that the relaxed criterion applies to both these categories, that is, class I and class II

officers. The relaxed criterion was applied in the case of those very officers who were promoted to the post of executive engineer. Now, when we will be restoring the normal criterion, after some time it will apply to both the categories of officers, that is, class I and class II officers. Therefore, nobody would suffer either in class I or in class II.

Shri Nambiar: Those reverted executive engineers are to suffer now because they have already been promoted as executive engineers and are holding the posts, but now they have to come back.

Shri Bhagawati: That is so. But they were also given the benefit of the relaxed criterion. They had not completed eight years of service when they were promoted. If we had to go by the normal criterion then they would have had to complete eight years before being promoted. According to the normal criterion, the class II officers would have had to complete eight years and the class I officers five years of service.

श्री यशपाल सिंह: दुर्भाग्य से हर जगह गुड वर्क का क्रेडिट मिलता है और गुड वर्क करने पर तरक्की मिलती है। एक तरफ तो इन इंजीनियरों ने डट कर काम किया और बहुत सुन्दर और बढ़िया काम कर के दिखाया, दूसरी तरफ इन्हीं लोगों की तनज्जुली की गई है, पदावनति की गई है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस हालत में इंजीनियरों में यह सिक्युरिटी कैसे होगी कि वे अपने ओहदों पर हर सकेंगे और उन को तरक्की मिल सकेगी।

Shri Bhagawati: I would like to submit that these officers have done good work. We have nothing to say against them. But reversion has become necessary because there is no vacancy at present.

As you know, the workload in this department had increased greatly during the last ten years or so. Further

other departments also had requisitioned the services of officers from the CPWD for construction in their own Ministries or departments. But now the workload decreases, then those 1966-67 budget there is no provision for new construction in this Ministry. Again, a cut of about Rs. 50 lakhs has been imposed in the budgeted figures. So, the workload has come down this year, and I do not know what the position will be later on. Now, we have got some work from the Defence Ministry, and so, we are adjusting the surplus staff accordingly. But if we do not get work the position will certainly have to be reviewed.

Shri Sivamurthi Swamy: There are so many projects going on under the Central Government and the State Governments. May I know whether these engineers cannot be absorbed on the same posts in other projects?

Mr. Speaker: That is what he has said.

Shri Bhagawati: When there is any opportunity we avail of it, because we have sympathy towards them and we want to adjust them as far as possible.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Is it not a fact that these seven executive engineers who are being reverted were appointed only about eight or ten months ago after a screening of about 250 officers had been carried out, when these seven people were selected on the basis of competence and efficiency and satisfactory service? If so, may I know why at that time it could not be anticipated that the contingency of the sort that the hon. Minister is now citing would occur and why these people were screened and selected and why they are now being asked to revert simply to make room for some directly recruited officers?

Shri Bhagawati: In the CPWD there may be work for some time, for a very short period and there may be a project which we have to work out speedily. Then we have to create

divisions and appoint people temporarily. These are all officiating officers. We had to create those posts for a temporary period, for some months, because even for some months, we have to appoint officers. We had to create some divisions and appoint these executive engineers, even if it were for a temporary period. But we cannot have them on a permanent basis on that account.

The Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): May I add for the information of the hon. Member that it is wrong to say that all of them have been reverted to make room for class I officers? Only one of them has been reverted to make room for class I officers. The other six have been reverted, because some were on deputation and they are now coming back, and further the workload is decreasing and so some of them are coming back; two were on leave and they are also coming back.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: This was known beforehand.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I knew that. The position today is this. If some officers have to be stepped up, that does not mean that we should stand in their way. That proves my *bona fides*. We take their good record into consideration and give them the promotion, but when there is no room they have to come back. Reversion does not mean any displacement.

Shri Nambiar: Even then, it is all the more necessary that the direct recruits must have five years' experience.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: From an extract from the Chief Engineer's letter dated the 19th August, 1966, it appears that "The following executive engineers are ordered to be reverted to the grade of assistant engineers with effect from the date they are relieved of their duties." Under

this order, all these seven officers were reverted, but there is no mention about their going back to their parent department or on deputation and so on. May I know whether it is a fact that all these seven officers are B.E.'s and they are fully qualified for the post? May I also know whether similar men with similar qualifications have been taken in their place or whether the qualifications of those individuals who have been newly recruited are less than those of these officers?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: There are two types of officers, namely class I and class II officers. The period for a class I officers is five years and that for a class II officers is eight years. We did relax that rule because the required number of officers were not available. That relaxed rule of three years for class I officers and 5 years for class II officers applies to both the categories respectively. If I had stuck to the normal rule of eight years for class II officers then not one of them would have been promoted last year.

Secondly, these officers are my officers...

Shri Ranga: Your officers? Are they doing your home work?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Yes, they do my home work; that is right.

Shri Ranga: They are Government officers; they are not your officers.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Shri Ranga seems to be allergic to this word. I am in charge of this Ministry, and they are the officers of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development. (Interruptions). May I proceed? . . .

Shri Ranga: You should pull him up.

Mr. Speaker: He says that they are officers or servants of the Ministry.

Shri Ranga: He goes on repeating that they are 'my officers', 'my Government' and so on. Who are these people? . . .

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: We are the people who form the Government, in spite of you. So, we are here . . .

Mr. Speaker: Now, the answer should come.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am always interrupted . . .

Shri Ranga: Let him amend his statement. You should be able to ask him to amend himself. It is not for him to give me this reply. That me in that manner when I raise a proper point here. It is very cheeky on the part of any Minister to answer me in that manner when I raise a proper point of order here and a proper point of procedure.

Shri Kapur Singh: Let him withdraw the allegation of allergy which he has levelled against my leader. That is a very serious allegation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Now, the answer should come straight.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I was trying to complete the answer by saying this. Our officers go on deputation to other departments; for example, they go to the P. & T. Department, and they go to other departments of the Government of India also; in the Food Department they do specialised job for them. If the work-load decreases, then those officers have to come back to their own parent Ministry, and then if they are senior enough, places have to be found for them.

Shri Kapur Singh: What about withdrawing the allegation he has made against my leader that he is allergic?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: He has not answered my question in regard to the qualifications.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: May I know whether the Ministry have

resorted to the most unhealthy practice of betting the concurrence of the UPSC for reduction in rank of an officer, which is precisely a disciplinary matter? May I know whether the hon. Minister is also aware that this is done on the basis purely of the confidential reports written by those officers who have been held to be responsible for initiating certain actions against certain officers?

Shri Bhagawati: This is for normal administrative reasons. There is no question of disciplinary action being taken.

Shri Kapur Singh: Unless I heard the hon. Minister incorrectly, he said in reply to part (b) of the question that with regard to the reversions which were ordered to give room to class I directly-recruited officers, there is only one case affected. May I know whether in view of the special character of this case, arrangements have been made to offer an equivalent post to the officer?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: There is a quota fixed of two class I officers and one class II officer. If we do not get them directly recruited or appointed by the UPSC, the class I officer is taken from the class II officers. But the moment a class I officer becomes available, that proportion has to be maintained.

Shri Nambiar: He has not completed 5 years service. My question has not been answered.

Mr. Speaker: He cannot take it up now.

Shri Nambiar: He is evading my question.

Shri Joachim Alva: There is a complete deterioration in the quality of buildings put up and approved by Government, and it has virtually become a contractors' paradise. What are the tests applied in the appointment of engineers? Is there a screening committee which inquires into

their character and competence for the job before they are entrusted with building construction work, so that they do not know how to Ministers upwards for contractors down below?

Shri Bhagawati: The officers are recruited through the UPSC on the basis of competitive examinations held and results declared.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Tea Delegation's Tour to Foreign Countries

*814. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a tea delegation was sent on tour of the U.K., U.S.A. and Canada in June last;

(b) if so, the main observations of the delegation and their recommendations submitted to Government after the tour; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7002/66].

National Coal Board

817. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are setting up a National Coal Board by integrating the existing organisations of Coal Board and Coal Controller;

(b) if so, the organisational set-up of the National Coal Board; and

(c) the expected advantages of the merger?