I find that hon. Members who have tabled questions Nos. 1091 to 1097 are absent. Hereafter, if I find that an hon. Member who has tabled questions is absent consecutively for three times, I will not call his question.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Under what rule?

Employees of Indian High Commission, London

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*1098. **Shri Anthony Pillai:**
Shri L. Achaw Singh:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a system of differential pay and allowances obtains for the staff employed in the office of the Indian High Commission in London dependant on whether they are initially recruited in the United Kingdom or in India;

(b) if so, what are the differences in the pay, emoluments and other conditions of service for the several categories of staff based on the mode of recruitment; and

(c) how these compare with the salary scales for similar occupations in the U.K. Civil Service?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). India-based officials in our High Commission in London, like other Foreign Service personnel posted abroad, receive in addition to their basic Indian pay, a foreign allowance and other concessions like free furnished accommodation, medical assistance facilities, Children's Education allowance and certain other minor concessions normally granted to Foreign Service officials. The conditions of service of locally recruited staff in all our Missions abroad normally approximate to those granted by the Governments of the countries concerned for similar class of employees. Locally recruited staff of our High Commission in London, therefore, get the same salary and conditions of service as are granted to similar employees under the U.K. Government. The U.K. Government has sanctioned certain increases in pay to their employees. The question of giving similar increments to the locally recruited staff in our High Commission in London is under examination.

Shri Anthony Pillai: In 1947, the pay scales of all those employed in the High Commission in London were on the same basis as those in the U.K. Civil Service. But since, 1947 there have been two increases given. Is it a fact that an industrial dispute has been raised by those initially recruited in London because of discriminatory treatment, in view of the fact that the emoluments of the India-based employees are roughly twice those paid to the staff recruited in London?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: If he could split the questions, I could answer one by one.

Mr. Speaker: The original employees in 1947 were paid according to the Civil Service rates prevailing in England.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: The new employees from India are getting twice as much. Has an industrial dispute been raised in regard to that?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The recruits from India are paid more than the locally recruited staff for the reasons I have already mentioned. This is because the locally recruited staff are supposed to have other facilities. They are not transferred. They have got cheap accommodation and other things. Therefore, they are paid less than the India-based staff.

Mr. Speaker: Has there been an industrial dispute raised?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: No.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: How many of them are granted immunities like exemption from payment of Indian income-tax?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The locally recruited staff do not pay Indian income-tax.

Shri Ranga: Have Government considered the advisability of otherwise of giving the same facilities to Indians who are recruited there locally, because they happen to be there at the time of recruitment, as are given to Indians who are recruited here and taken over there, in view of the fact that they have their dependants on this side and their case is not all fours with that of English people recruited in England?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Their case is the same, whether they are Indians or English.

Shri Anthony Pillai: Is it a fact that the cost to the Government of India on account of the India-based staff is twice as much the cost of those recruited in England?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: It won't be correct to say that it is twice the cost of locally recruited staff. For instance, in the case of the India-based officer and staff, the First Secretary is paid Rs. 2,353; if he is locally recruited, he gets Rs. 2,000. Therefore, it won't be twice as much.

Shri Nath Pai: There is a large number of Indians in England recruited on the clerical staff locally. It is with regard to them that the question is being asked. Is it not true that with regard to them this ratio is true? For example, stenographers and clerical staff taken from India get almost twice as much as those who are recruited in London proper.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: That is more or less true. The India-based clerk gets about Rs. 1,071 whereas the locally recruited person gets Rs. 470.

Shri Nath Pai: It is more than two times.

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar: Is it not a fact that members in the Foreign Service get income-tax-free salaries, and does that not apply to those in the Indian High Commissioner's staff in London?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The British members among the locally recruited staff have to pay the U.K. tax, whereas the Indian members do not pay income-tax. May I read out the reasons for the difference in pay? It is presumed that the Indian local recruits do not have to pass through the U.P.S.C. test; they enter into government service by the back door without any particular selective test. Anybody who has managed to go to England can get into the High Commission service without any competitive test. He can settle down in London and live like any other Englishman and plan his future accordingly. He is not liable to transfer to other parts of the world as the India-based officials, and he has no problem regarding the education of his children (*Interruptions*).

Regional News Broadcasts

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*1099. **Shri Vajpayee:**
Shri Assar:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri B. C. Mullick:

Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

(a) the centres from which regional news broadcasts are made at present;

(b) the programme for expansion, if any;

(c) the arrangements made for the collection of regional news;

(d) whether any news agency service is being subscribed for these broadcasts;

(e) whether any news agency has offered to cater regional news in the languages of broadcasts; and

(f) if so, whether Government have accepted it?