

Shri C. E. 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?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 22.]

(c) and (d). P.T.I., A.I.R.'s own correspondents, offices of the Press Information Bureau and State Governments' Information organisations.

(e) and (f). Government has one or two other offers regarding amplification of regional news service which will be duly considered on merit. It has, however, to be remembered that acceptance or non-acceptance of a particular news service of a news agency will entirely depend on the possible utility of that particular service to A.I.R. and also financial implications of the offer. A decision is always taken taking all factors into consideration and it is not possible, nor desirable, to lay such things on the Table of the House.

श्री बाजपेयी : क्या यह सत्य नहीं है कि पी० टी० आई० के कार्यालय केवल बड़े नगरों तक ही सीमित हैं और यदि हाँ, तो प्रादेशिक भाषाओं में समाचारों का प्रसारण करने के लिए क्या यह आवश्यक नहीं होगा कि ऐसी समाचार समितियों को प्रोत्साहन दिया जाए जिनके संवाददाता गाँवों तक फैले हुए हैं ?

Dr. Keskar: The hon Member in the shape of a question is making an argument in favour of a particular news agency.

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that in Madras where the regional language is Tamil, the regional language that is being catered by the bulletin is Telugu and there has been representations to the Government?

Dr. Keskar: I have not understood the question.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Vajpayee: Sir, I have to put a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members ought to put questions for eliciting an answer and they ought not to go on making suggestions and rise when I go to the next question.

Shri Vajpayee: I wanted to know whether it is not a fact that the offices of the P.T.I. are located at big towns only. It is a question and not a suggestion.

Dr. Keskar: Sir, the hon. Member is giving the first part of his question only. (*Interruption*). I am talking to the Speaker and not to the hon. Member. If I may translate his question, he wanted to say that there is a particular news agency which has offices all over in the small mofussil towns of U.P.....

Shri Vajpayee: I never mentioned U.P. It is absolutely wrong.

Dr. Keskar: It is correct and he has made a suggestion that.... (*Interruption*).

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Sir, if it is wrong to make suggestions for action, is it not equally wrong to impute motives in answers?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member only wanted to know if all the offices of the news agency relating to the P.T.I.—those correspondents are actually only in cities and none of them in the villages.

Shri Vajpayee: It is a simple question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order please The hon. Member makes it complicated by adding something

Dr. Keskar: The P.T.I. has got correspondents in big towns. At the same time it has got part-time correspondents in small towns also and our agreement with the P.T.I. covers the question of having special part-time correspondents in mofussil towns also in order to help the regional survey.

Shri Banga: Is no effort made to consult their own local advisory committees in coming to a decision?

Dr. Keskar: The question of publishing our regional news bulletins has been considered many times. But, I may inform the hon. Member that the Regional News Bulletin is for the moment very much restricted and it is for a short duration, mainly on financial account. And, when we are in a position to have more money, we will certainly consider the question of amplifying the news bulletin.

Retrenchment of Workers in Kanpur Cotton Mills

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*1103. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Tangaman:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 1100 workers of Kanpur Cotton Mills are facing retrenchment as a result of a report submitted by a team of experts appointed by Central Government;

(b) whether any representation has been received from the Suti Mill Mazdoor Sabha protesting against this decision; and

(c) if so, the steps taken thereon?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) No. It is understood from the State Government that owing to financial difficulties the Mills have laid off the workers indefinitely from the 2nd December 1957.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether this retrenchment is being done to force the workers to agree to rationalisation; and, if so, what action is being taken by Government to safeguard them against this onslaught?

Shri L. N. Mishra: So far we have not received any representation for rationalisation. They might have referred to the State Government. So far as we are concerned, we have received none.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the Minister is aware that nearly 30 per cent. of the labour population of Kanpur has been seriously affected by the lock-out, lay-out and closure by the Kanpur Textiles and what steps have been taken to solve the problem?

Shri L. N. Mishra: This is a general thing and does not refer to this question. The hon. Member might be making a statement based on newspaper reports, I think.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether a committee was appointed to investigate into the working of the same mill previously; and, if so, whether that particular committee has submitted its report?

Shri L. N. Mishra: A committee was appointed by the Government of U.P. to enquire into the affairs of all the Kanpur Textile Mills and that report has not yet been made available to us.

Hides and Skins Industry

*1104. **Shri N. R. Munitamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government of India to ensure that price fluctuations in U.K. and U.S.A. do not adversely affect the hides and skins industry in South India;

(b) whether steps have been taken to conduct auction in India as in the case of Tea Industry;

(c) whether Government have considered the suggestion by the industry as to the flexibility of control in selling price of raw hides; and

(d) if so, with what results?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) It is generally not possible to insulate the Indian prices from the world prices. Efforts are, however, being made to also develop our exports of hides and skins to countries besides U.K. and U.S.A.