

(c) whether it is also a fact that it is now proposed to close down the centre from the 31st March, 1958; and

(d) if so, what alternative arrangements Government propose to make to enable the present trainees of the centre to complete their studies?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir. The course is for a year only from the 3rd April, 1957.

(b) 38.

(c) Yes, on completion of the present course.

(d) The question does not arise, as the course is only for a year.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether some arrangements are being made for these trainees' future either by the Government or by the Bharat Sewak Samaj?

Shri Hathi: The Government does not promise any employment or anything else. These training centres are being run under the auspices of the Bharat Sewak Samaj. Government only gives them some financial assistance. When these people are trained, the Bharat Sewak Samaj puts them on various works that they are undertaking and also finds employment for them in other agencies. For example, some of these people are being taken in the National Construction Corporation.

Shri Radha Raman: Was similar training imparted in some other places in the country and what has been the result?

Shri Hathi: I think about four training centres were there. One was at Kosi, one at Nagarjunsagar, one at Chambal and one in Delhi. The Kosi trainees were about 250 in number and all of them are working on the flood embankment and the canal digging which the people have taken up.

Shri Vajpayee: Is it a fact that the trainees are on strike for the last ten days and the complaint is that

the diploma that will be given to them will have no value? What are the reasons for the strike?

Shri Hathi: There is no question of any strike or of any diploma, because I do not think that Bharat Sewak Samaj would be giving a diploma. At the most they can give a certificate. I do not think they ever intended to give a diploma.

Shri Vajpayee: Is it a fact that while students were admitted for the training of supervisor-cum-accountants they are being given the training of draftsmen or works mistries?

Mr. Speaker: Were they induced to come on the expectation that they would be trained for supervisor's post, but were given only draftsman's training?

Shri Hathi: They should be supervisors, i.e., mistries who could take up supervisory work, which is taken by the village labour co-operatives.

12 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

Working Journalists' Wage Board

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Shri Feroze Gandhi:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Braj Raj Singh:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri A. K. Gopalan
Shri V. P. Nayar:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri Surendranath

Dwivedy:

S.N.Q. 7. Shri Yajnik:

Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Bimal Ghose:
Shri Panigrahi:
Shri Jagdish Awasthi:
Shri Prabhat Kar:
Shrimati Parvathi
Krishnan:
Shrimati Renn
Chakravarty:

Shri Naushir Bharucha:

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

(b) whether Government are aware that the Supreme Court has declared

the Journalists Wage Board Award *ultra vires* of the provisions of the Working Journalists Act, 1955; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to implement the provisions of the Working Journalists Act under which the Wage Board was constituted?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) Government are in touch with the organisations of the Working Journalists and the Newspaper Industry and propose to have discussions with them before deciding further steps to be taken in the matter.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Is it a fact that despite repeated requests by the Wage Board, many newspapers did not furnish balance-sheets and relevant financial information that the Wage Board had asked for to determine their paying capacity under section 9 of the Working Journalists Act, and if so, what steps do Government propose to take to ensure that balance-sheets and financial information are supplied by newspapers in case a second Wage Board has to be appointed?

Shri Abid Ali: It is true that some of the newspaper owners were not helpful in this matter. With regard to the future line of action, due consideration will be given to this matter also when deciding this question.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: May I know whether it has come to the notice of Government that in the course of the judgment, the Supreme Court has observed that a few newspapers had supplied balance-sheets to the Wage Board, but some of these balance-sheets were actually manipulated?

Shri Abid Ali: That is in the judgment.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know by what time Government contemplate to set up the second Wage Board?

Shri Abid Ali: The question of appointment of another Wage Board does not arise at present. As I have

indicated in the reply already, we are consulting the representatives of the parties concerned before deciding the further line of action in the matter.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The Deputy Minister said that Government were in touch with the different parties. May I know when they will call such a meeting, and whether, pending final settlement by this tripartite conference, Government will give any interim relief to the working journalists?

Shri Abid Ali: I have not even said that we are holding a tripartite conference. I have only stated that we are having consultation with the representatives of the organisations concerned. After having consultation with them, then we will decide the further line of action. With regard to interim relief, the question does not arise, so far as Government are concerned.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: The Deputy Minister indicated that there was an attempt to have a conference of the employers and the representatives of the working journalists to discuss this matter. In view of the fact that at an earlier meeting, the employers were quite adamant in coming to a compromise, I would like to know whether Government have any proposals or have any intention to guarantee some interim relief for the journalists.

Shri Abid Ali: I have replied to this already. As far as the employers are concerned, they were adamant in the earlier stages, and they had gone to court, and they wanted to know the decision of the Supreme Court. Now, perhaps, they may have a different attitude.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : प्रश्नी मंत्री जी ने यह कहा कि समाचारपत्रों और उनकी कुछ संस्थाओं से इस सम्बन्ध में बात-चीत चल रही है। क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट इस सम्बन्ध में किन समाचारपत्रों और किन संस्थाओं से बात-चीत कर रही है ?

श्री भाषिब जलो: जहां तक एम्प्लॉइज का सम्बन्ध है, इंडियन फेडरेशन आफ वकिंग जर्नलिस्ट्स से और जहां तक न्यूजपेपर्स एस्टाब्लिशमेंट्स का सम्बन्ध है, इंडियन एंड इस्ट्रन न्यूजपेपर्स सोसायटी और इंडियन लैंग्वेज न्यूजपेपर्स एसोसियेशन।

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: In view of the fact that the present judgment relates only to gratuity, may I know whether Government are proposing to appoint inspectors to see that all the provisions of the Journalist Act are properly implemented?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, the provisions of the Act which have been held valid by the court, of course, should be implemented, and appropriate action will have to be taken by Government to ensure that.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: My specific question was whether they were going to appoint inspectors.

Shri Abid Ali: All the provisions of the Act should, of course, be enforced.

Shri Khadilkar: May I know whether Government would consider the question of keeping such social legislation away from the jurisdiction of the normal judiciary and set up another type of judiciary to deal with all labour tribunal decisions as well as wage board awards.

Shri Abid Ali: On previous occasions also, we had replied to this question stating that that would mean amending the Constitution, which we do not propose to do at present for this purpose.

Shri T. N. Singh: In view of the fact that this matter has been hanging fire for well nigh two years, do Government propose to adopt some quicker method than the one suggested in the answer?

Shri Abid Ali: If any such method occurs to the hon. Member and he sends it on to us, we shall be obliged to him.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Of course, the time allowed for this question is too short. Each one of the hon. Members has got not one suggestion but two suggestions. Now, Government are considering. So, I shall proceed to the next item.

Shri V. P. Nayar: We have questions to ask.

Mr. Speaker: I understand that all hon. Members are interested in this matter. I have allowed as many as twelve supplementary questions so far. Shall I go on allowing all the other hon. Members to go on asking supplementary questions, consuming the whole day which is set apart for official work?

Shri T. N. Singh: In view of the general interest, you may allow.

Mr. Speaker: If this is the manner in which short notice questions would be utilised, I would not allow short notice questions.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: All right. The original sponsors will be allowed one question.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: What about the others?

Mr. Speaker: I shall allow. If hon. Members are all very anxious about this matter, there are other methods. The matter will come up soon after Government make up their mind, and I shall allow opportunities for discussion.

Shri Tangamani: We wanted an exhaustive reply, and we had given notice of calling-attention-to-a-matter-of-urgent-public-importance, but our names have been clubbed together in this short notice question.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, all the names have been put in.

Shri Tangamani: But the statement is not complete.

Shri V. P. Nayar: It is not even suggestions; we want to get specific information.

Mr. Speaker: I shall call upon the Minister to place before the House a statement as quickly as possible, as soon as he gets some information regarding this matter. Besides the questions that have been asked or tabled, if there are any other questions that arise, then the answers to those other questions may be placed before the House in the form of a statement as early as possible, after the Minister receives the information.

Shri Prabhat Kar: He should know exactly what information we are asking for.

Mr. Speaker: If hon. Members want to utilise the opportunity here to ask questions and supplementary questions and make Government understand, then this is not the only method. Hon. Members can write, and if they make suggestions and send them on to the Secretary here at the Table, I shall send them on to the Minister, and there will be a consolidated statement made by the Minister.

Some Hon. Members: This is an important matter.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: We want a discussion on this.

Shri Feroze Gandhi rose—

Mr. Speaker: When the hon. Member sat down I thought he was also satisfied with my advice.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: I only sat down because you stood up.

In view of the fact that balance-sheets and financial information were not made available to the Wage Board by all the newspapers, may I know how it is possible to conform to the provisions of section 9 of the Working Journalists Act?

Shri Abid Ali: All these factors will be taken into consideration, as I have submitted already, while we

discuss this question with the representatives of the parties; and for the future action, these will have to be taken into consideration.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Kosi Project

*1162. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work on the Kosi Project has fallen behind schedule, specially of the new alignment of western embankment from Jamalpur to Bhanthy; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Shri Hathi: (a) and (b) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 119].

Purchase of Cranes for Railways

*1164. { **Shri Raghunath Singh:**
Shrimati Ha Palchoudhuri:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Indian Railways have placed orders with a British firm for the purchase of 27 Broad Gauge cranes?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): Yes.

मालगाड़ियों से चोरियाँ

*११६५. श्री क० च० मालवीय : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि माल गाड़ियों से माल की चोरी की घटनायें हुई हैं; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इसके कारण १९५७-५८ में अब तक भारतीय रेलों की कुल कितना नुकसान हुआ ?