

बाबल बनाने के सिलसिले में सरकार जो काम कर रही थी उसमें कम प्रगति हुई है।

सम्बन्ध बहोबल : मकली बाबल मल्टी परफब कुछ नहीं है।

Shri A. M. Thomas: Perhaps he is referring to the macaroni. About that I have answered a question some two days back.

Regional Director (Food), Eastern Region

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*1415. { Shri Halder:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri Warrior:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether 2,000 employees of the Calcutta Office of the Regional Director (Food), Eastern Region have stopped working on Sundays and other holidays since May, 1958, and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Some of the employees of the Regional Directorate (Food) Calcutta who were posted for duty at the Central Godowns for receipt of foodgrains from Docks on the 28th July (holiday), 16th and 30th November, 1958 (Sundays) did not report for duty

(b) This was in protest against fixation of Foodgrains Receipt Programme on Sundays and holidays.

Shri Halder: Have the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Indian Government given an assurance to the employees' association that except on Sundays and holidays the working hours would be from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The usual working hours are from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. with one hour's break for lunch interval. We give work to these employees on Sundays and holidays only when it becomes inevitable for the

Regional Directorate of Food and when the programme on Sundays and closed holidays requires the posting of minimum staff required at the docks for supervising the receipt and issue of foodgrains. It is not done as a normal rule. It will be seen from some returns which we have received that during the period from 20th May to 30th November, 1958, although there were forty closed holidays we requisitioned the staff only on three occasions.

Shri Halder: Were any charges framed against sixty persons who refused to work on Sundays and holidays?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Explanation has been asked for from 72 employees who were asked to report on that day. Action has been taken against 12 persons. Ten of them have appealed and their appeals are pending.

Shri Warrior: May I know whether increase in wage is given for these holidays and Sundays on which they work and if so how much?

Shri A. M. Thomas: They will be given compensatory holidays and they can absent on some other working days.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether some of these employees had already made a request not to put them on duty on Sunday because they had some urgent work and yet they were charge-sheeted?

Shri A. M. Thomas: No, Sir. It is not correct.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: They have made a statement.... (Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker: Their statement is wrong. That is what the Minister says. There is an assertion and there is a denial. The hon. Member has got greater confidence in the members outside than those inside. That is clear.

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is evidently a concerted move; all the employees absented on that day.