

but also the Ministry of Environment and forests which is going to be implemented. So far as the time part is concerned, the study was required to be done and after expert recommendations only the Action Plans could be drawn. That is why, when the DDA came into the picture after 1988, there have been continuous action plans every year and only in 1990-91, there was no action. After that, again meetings have taken place, proposals have been made and reports have been prepared. Now, as I have stated, the DDA is ready with a short-term plan and then medium-term and long-term plans will be drawn and accordingly they will be implemented.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Employees in Military Engineering Service

*785 SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA
SHRI LOKA NATH
CHODHURY

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether more than 4000 clerks employed with the Military Engineering Service all over the country resorted to an indefinite pen-down strike from March, 26, 1993,

(b) if so, the details of their demands and

(c) the reaction of the Government to each of these demands

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) to (c). The All India MES Clerical Cadre Association representing clerks and Class IV employees of the Military Engineering Service, an unrecognised Association, served a notice for Chain Hunger Strike from, 15th March 1993 to 21st March, 1993 and pen-down strike from

22nd March, 1993 to 31st March 1993 in all the offices of MES throughout the country. Certain employees observed Chain Hunger Strike from 15th March, 1993. Employees belonging to the Association including Group 'D' numbering approximately 4,000 went on pen-down strike from 22nd March, 1993 to 31st March, 1993. The strike was mostly confined to Western and Northern Army commands. The strike was called off on 31st March, 1993.

The main demands raised by the Association during the strike were as follows

(i) Expeditious finalisation of clerical cadre-review proposals

(ii) Review of posting policy of clerical personnel

(iii) Creation of posts of Administrative Officers in Garrison Engineers' Offices

(iv) Recognition of the Association

(v) Speedy implementation of Career advancement of Group 'C' and 'D' employees

Government had held discussions with the representatives of the Association on earlier occasions in order to find an amicable settlement of the various issues. In this regard Government have already taken steps to implement certain demands, namely grant of *In situ* promotions to Group 'C' and 'D' employees, and initiated a review of present posting policy of clerical personnel.

As regards the creation of posts of Administrative Officers in Garrison Engineers' Offices, Government have not found it feasible to accept the demands, as there is already an Assistant Garrison Engineer in FEs offices who is assisting the Garrison Engineer in day-to-day administration, in addition to technical work. The Association has also been suitably apprised of the position.

In regard to the recognition of the Association, certain pre-conditions laid down in the guidelines in respect of the recognition of service associations had not been complied with by the Association. The Association has been advised to fulfil the pre-conditions.

In the matter of Cadre review proposals, finalisation is awaiting identification of 10% posts for surrender, under the economy drive of the Government of India. The Association have since been apprised of the position.

[*Translation*]

Prices of Khadi Items

786 SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA
KAUR DEEPA
SHRIMATI MAHENDRA
KUMARI

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that popularity of Khadi items is declining due to continuous increase in its prices;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that rural people are being deprived of the use of these items as a result thereof;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to reduce the prices of these items to make them more popular, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The total khadi sales during the last three years indicate an upswing in the popularity of khadi as indicated below:-

\		(Rs in crores)
Year	Total Khadi Sales	
1089-90	291.26	
1990-91	296.18	
1991-92	368.97	

(b) The Central and the State Governments are providing substantial amount as interest free working capital and attractive rebates so that Khadi is available to common people at a subsidised rate

(c) and (d) The price of Khadi is governed by cost chart mechanism devised in the pre-independence days. This provides for raw materials cost, wages, overheads at fixed percentage etc. As such there is a control in the cost of Khadi. However, in 1991-92 and 1992-93 the prices of raw materials such as cotton, silk cocoons and manno wool had gone up substantially. Due to inflation, the wage of artisans, the cost of implements and transportation has also gone up. However, the increase had been about 10 to 15% per year. In order to reduce the unit costs, KIVC has introduced high speed charkhas and 8 spindles charkhas to augment the production per artisan.

Bharat Electronics Limited

*787. SHRIMATI SHEELA
CAUTAM;
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Electronics Limited (B.E.L.) has submitted any proposals regarding its expansion and setting up of new projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision taken by the Government