

Computerization of Rural Society

3920. Dr. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to computerize the rural society after tractor and harvester-combine have become an integral part of rural economy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the time by which computer will be introduced in this field ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India has set up a National Informatics Centre under the Department of Electronics under which a nation-wide computer network is being developed in a phase manner. Under this project, a computer will be installed in each district headquarters and connected to the four regional super computers to be established in New Delhi, Hyderabad, Pune and Bhubaneswar through the INSAT Satellite. Information required for supporting the rural economy will be fed through the district level computers for transmission to the computers at the State capitals and thereon to the regional super computers for processing and correlation of information. The same network will be utilised for dissemination of processed and correlated information to the district level computers. For this purpose, a database format has been designed which includes information concerning agriculture and rural Society.

(c) The installation of computers and associated earth Stations for being connected to the Satellite-based network will begin by the end of 1985 and will be completed by the end of 1987.

[Translation]

Steps for Effective Role of Press

3921. SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP

SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure free and healthy press and its effective role in democracy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) :

(a) and (b). Government's policy towards the press is one of deep commitment to its freedom consistent with high journalistic standards. To ensure a free and healthy press which plays an effective role in democracy, a Press Council has been set up under the Press Council Act 1978. To promote the growth of the Press, the Government provides a number of concessions and facilities to the Press like telegram and teleprinter facilities at concessional tariffs, housing and travel facilities for journalists, accreditation of journalists and provision of information on Government policies, programmes and activities. Besides, the All India Radio broadcasts slow bulletins in Hindi and English to provide news to regional and language press. Concessions are also provided for small and medium newspapers in the Central Government's Advertising Policy and the Newsprint Allocation Policy.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Improvement of Pay Scales of Lift Operators of CPWD

3922. SHRI C. K. KUPPUSWAMY : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether lift operators under CPWD have represented to Government in regard to improvement in their pay scale and other demands;

(b) whether these employees had to resort to fast unto death on more than one occasion to press for their demands;

- (c) if so, what are their demands; and
 (d) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The employees resorted to fast once on 21st October, 1983 and again on 28th March, 1985.

- (c) Their demands are as under :
- (i) Recognition of Lift Karmachari Sangh;
 - (ii) Skilled grade for lift operators in the scale of Rs. 260-400;
 - (iii) Issue of 3 sets of terricot uniforms instead of 2 sets;
 - (iv) Supply of shoes and chappals from Bharat Leather Emporium ;
 - (v) Residential accommodation to lift operators near place of duty;
 - (vi) Regularisation of lift operators on muster roll after 240 days of service; and
 - (vii) Supply of jersey and socks.
- (d) (i) Category-wise unions are not eligible for recognition;
- (ii) The 4th Pay Commission is already considering the revision of pay scales;
 - (iii) The decision to give 2 set terricot uniforms was taken in consultation with the Lift operators. However, their demand now is for 3 sets of terricot uniforms. The cost of the uniforms now supplied to the Lift operators is much more (Rs. 396/-) than the cost of the uniforms supplied to other Group 'D' employees of the Central Government (Rs. 311/-).
 - (iv) The Department of Personnel

and Administrative Reforms has issued instructions in which they have also fixed the price of shoes at Rs. 52.87 per pair which can be procured from Bharat Leather Emporium, Super Bazar, Central Government Employees Consumer Stores and Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan within the price limit fixed by the DP and AR.

- (v) The demand is that the Lift Operators on shift duty be given residential accommodation nearer their place of duty. The category of Lift Operators is not included in the list of essential staff.
- (vi) Ban on creation and filling up of posts also applies to regularisation of muster roll workers.
- (vii) The demand of the Lift Operators is for better quality of Jerseys and socks.

[Translation]

**M/S Bhandari Builders Company
 New Delhi**

3923. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether on 22 March, 1985 some MPs had demanded an inquiry against M/s Bhandari Builders Company, Nehru Place, New Delhi for non-payment of wages, allowances, bonus etc. and to avoid unnecessary harrassment to labourers sent abroad and if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(b) whether Government propose to conduct a CBI inquiry into the whole matter and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) one Hon'ble Member of Parliament had sent a complaint dated 22.3.85 against M/s. Bhandari Builders Company, New Delhi regarding non-refund of