

Shortage of Postmen in Country

2753. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that distribution of post has been adversely affected due to shortage of postmen in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). The Department undertakes periodical review of establishment of all operative officer with a view to ascertaining justification for all categories of staff including Postmen. Based on such a review undertaken in the year 1989-90, the following number of posts of Postmen and Sorting Postmen were sanctioned on 22.8.1990:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1. Postmen | 2359 posts |
| 2. Sorting Postmen | 151 |

Establishment review is a continuous process and all proposals for creation of posts is examined based on justification and merit. However, each case of delayed delivery and non delivery of mail is examined on receipt of specific complaints and suitable remedial measures are taken.

[English]

Demand of Telecom Employees

2754. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether members of Bharatiya Telecom. Employees Federation are on agitation for the last several months pressing certain demands;

(b) if so, the details of thier demands; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in

this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir. Presently, there is no agitation by the Members of BTEF. However, they had organised Dharna and lunch hour demonstration on 12.11.91 in front of Sanchar Bhavan, New Delhi and the various field offices of the Department.

(b) The details of the demands are given in the attached Statement - I

(c) As given in the enclosed Statement - II

STATEMENT - I

Demands presented by Bhartiya Telecom. Employees Federation.

1. Entry of BTEF in JCM.
2. Restructuring of Cadres as per BTEF suggestions and extention of OTBP Scheme to LDC/UDC Cadre in Administrative offices.
3. Restructuring of Department:
 - (a) Future of MTNL-Payment of Wages & Fringe benefits at par with other PSU's w.e.f. 1-4-1986.
 - (b) Payment of Rs. 100/-P.M. to all Telecom. Employees.
4. Regularisation of Casual Labourers including skilled/Semi Skilled workers.
5. (a) Bonus to Casual Workers at par with their respective Cadres.
 - (b) Raising of ceiling limits for payment of Bonus.
6. Acceptance of amendments in the constitution of B.T.T.E.U. Group 'D'.

STATEMENT-II**1. Entry of B.T.E.F. in J.C.M.**

The matter has been considered by the Department of Personnel & Training in detail. As per the existing policy no new Federations/Unions are being granted recognition for participation in the JCM pending finalisation of the new recognition rules. Moreover, according to the constitution of the JCM proportionate representation can be changed only after verification of Membership of all Federations. Rules in this regard are still under formulation by the Department of Personnel & Training.

In view of above, it is not feasible to give representation to BTEF IN the JCM.

2. Restructuring of Cadres as per Suggestions of BTEF & O.T.B.P. Scheme for Administrative Staff.

The scheme of cadre restructuring had been introduced after approval by the Government and it is not feasible to make further changes at this stage.

The case of introducing TOA pattern of staffing in circle offices replacing the existing LDC/UDC pattern had been taken up with the Ministry of Finance who have not agreed to the proposal submitted by the Department in this behalf. The LDC & UDCs are since cadres common to all other departments under the Government, OTBP Scheme which applies to only certain operative cadres in the Department of Telecom. cannot be extended to the LDCs/UDCs working in the Circle Offices.

3 Restructuring of D.O.T./Future of MTNL.

The high power committee appointed by the Govt. in this behalf has submitted the report which is still under examination by the Government. The question of pay scales in respect of employees working in MTNL is since linked with the over all question of restructuring the Department. The same applies to the issue of payment of Rs. 100/

- per month to all the Telecom. Employees in line with MTNL.

4. Regularisation of Casual Labourers.

The scheme of conferring temporary status on casual labourers who have completed one year of service has already been introduced by the Department. Further, it has recently been decided to consider regularisation of Casual Labourers who have completed 10 years service.

Regarding absorption of skilled/semi-skilled workers in cadres like technicians and wireman, it may be stated that appointments to these cadres is regulated under the statutory rules of recruitment. There is no provision of automatic absorption of the casual workers into these cadres. However, the concessions regarding age limit etc. as provided by the Department of Personnel and Training have been duly extended to such workers by the Department.

5. Bonus

Casual Labourers, are only entitled to Ex-gratia payment which has been raised from Rs. 300/- to Rs. 750/- and have been paid for the year 1990-91 accordingly.

Regarding payment of Bonus to employees whose emoluments exceed Rs. 3,500/- per month, an SLP has been filed by the Departments against the judgement of CAT (Delhi Bench). The SLP is still pending before the Supreme Court and the case is thus subjudice on that account.

6. Acceptance of Amendments in the Constitution of B.T.T.E.U. Group 'D'.

The proposed amendment had been examined earlier in consultation with Department of Personnel & Training who had advised that the amendment extending membership to Group 'C' employees had substantial implications and could not be accepted till new rules of recognition of staff union are finalised. The position in this behalf remains unchanged.