

The demands (a) & (c) of MES Civilian Engineers' Association, as replied on 20th February, 1979, in the Lok Sabha, are as under:

(a) Revise the pay scales of Supdts Gde I from Rs. 550—750 to Rs. 550—590 with retrospective effect.

(c) Scrap the age limit for departmental candidates who wish to appear for the UPSC examination/interviews.

These demands are still under consideration. The Association will be informed as soon as a final decision is arrived at.

While efforts to reach decision soon are being made, it is likely to take some more time as the issues involved require Inter-Ministrial consultation.

#### Treatment of A.I.R. Producers vis-a-Vis Executives

10010. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the personnel of A.I.R. producers are not treated at par with executive administrators for promotions, pensions and other benefits as a result the personnel belonging to former category suffer in the matter of promotion;

(b) if so, facts thereof; and

(c) steps taken or proposed to be taken to safeguard the interest of such personnel?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (c). Producers in All India Radio belong to the Staff Artists' category and are contract employees. Most of the service benefits applicable to the regular Government servants, except those in regard to Pension, have been made applicable to them. The Producers are entitled to Contributory Provident Fund benefits. Gratuity has also been allowed

to them in addition to Contributory Provident Fund benefits under certain conditions.

Producers of All India Radio are eligible for promotion in terms of the Recruitment Rules applicable to them, just as the regular employees get their promotions on the basis of the Recruitment Rules applicable to them. The fact that the promotion prospects of Producers are limited is engaging the attention of the Government.

#### News Item Captioned "Fear and Insecurity prevail in Dhanbad Coal Belt"

10012. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI P. M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the columns of *Hindustan Times* of April 9, 1979 where it has been reported that there is fear and insecurity prevailing in Dhanbad coal belt affecting the efficiency and morale of the officers of Bharat Coking Coal Company and also that of the labourers in the area ultimately bringing down the production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) his reactions in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 21-3-1979, some local villagers blocked the road leading to pits 4 & 5 of Bhowra Colliery thereby stopping the transport of coal from pitheads to the colliery siding. In spite of appeals by the management and the local law and order authorities, the obstruction continued. On 23-3-1979, 22 persons, including some workers, who were obstructing police in removal of blockade with the help of the labourers were arrested and subsequently, the same day, a large number of villagers attacked the colliery office and severely beat 5 officers, two of whom had to be imme-