

PEPSU STATE EMPLOYEES

*1345. **Shri Ajit Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state the number, gradewise of the PEPSU State employees, who have been retrenched and thrown out of employment with effect from the 1st September, 1953?

(b) What are the reasons for this retrenchment?

(c) Have Government given or propose to give any alternate employment to those persons?

(d) Are Government aware that in PEPSU unemployment had already assumed a dangerous proportion and this further retrenchment will add to the number of unemployed?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) Gazetted — 16

Non-Gazetted —	68
(Executive)	
Ministerial —	387
Class IV —	248
TOTAL	719

(b) The main reasons for effecting retrenchment are: relaxation of controls and consequent abolition of Civil Supplies Department, fixation of cadre-strengths in different departments and finalization of integration of services, reorganisation of Secretariat and administrative departments and re-formation of districts, tahsils and sub-tahsils.

(c) Yes, the Government are endeavouring to provide alternate employment.

(d) The position regarding unemployment in PEPSU is more or less the same as in other States.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS IN ANDAMAN ISLANDS

683. **Bishop Richardson:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to connect Middle and North Andaman by road; and

(b) whether it is under consideration to operate a weekly service by boat to ply between the various settlements of the islands?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) At present there is no proposal to connect Middle and North Andamans by road.

(b) A proposal for improved communications between Port Blair and outlying islands including Nicobar Islands is under consideration.

AIR SERVICE WITH ANDAMAN ISLANDS

684. **Bishop Richardson:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether establishment of Air Service to link up the Middle and North Andaman islands with the Mainland, is under consideration; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). At present there is no proposal to establish air service between the Middle & North Andamans and the mainland of India.

IRON ORE

686. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the district of Bellary possesses one of our richest deposits of iron ore; and

(b) whether it is a fact that transport problems jeopardise their proper working?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) Yes, Sir.