

Representation from Central Government fishing seamen's association

1169. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government Fishing Seamen's Association has submitted any representation to the Government; and

(b) if so, the details of the demands and the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached.

Statement

| Demands of the Association | Action taken by the Government |
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| 1. Fixation of working hours of floating staff | 1. Because of the very nature of work, it is not possible to fix any definite hours of work for the floating staff when they are on board the vessels. However, considering the nature of their work on board the vessels, the Government have sanctioned high sea allowance to various categories of floating staff ranging from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 per month. |
| 2. Enhancement of messing allowance to floating staff. | 2. The messing allowance has been enhanced by the Government from the earlier rates of Rs. 5/- and Rs. 10/- for two categories of officials to Rs. 10/- and Rs. 17.50, respectively in May 1982. |
| 3. Revision of scales of pay of deckhands and others. | 3. The existing scales of pay were recommended by the 3rd Pay Commission. Only anomalies can be looked into. |
| 4. Redesignation of besuns with appropriate scale of pay. | 4. This matter has been examined. It has not been agreed to. |
| 5. Absorption of all categories of employees who were appointed on ad hoc basis and have completed the period of service equivalent to the period of probation prescribed for the posts. | 5. Ad hoc employees satisfying the rules are absorbed in regular vacancies whenever they arise, in accordance with Government rules on the subject. |
| 6. Norms for transfer of members of floating staff. | 6. Instructions have been issued to affect transfer of floating staff only in the interest of public service. |
| 7. Creation of posts of senior grade of skippers. | 7. Any ad hoc upgrading of skippers has not been agreed to. |
| 8. Provision of Stewards and Topass in larger vessels. | 8. For larger vessels posts of Topass have been provided. Post of Steward has not been agreed to in view of the provision of separate messing allowance to floating staff in lieu of free food. |
| 9. Discontinuance of the practice of appointing deckhands cum greaser on a personal pay of Rs. 10/- per month and Cooks as senior deckhand cum cook. | 9. This was carefully examined. It has not been possible to agree to this demand. |
| 10. Introduction of insurance for the life of the floating staff. | 10. There already exists a group insurance scheme for Central Government Employees, including the floating staff. |