

in States which do not have immediate funds for such projects;

(b) if so, the names of the States where such projects are expected to be set up under the above scheme; and

(c) the steps taken by the Central Electricity Authority in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Payment of Stipend to the Apprentices

7847. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have introduced an Apprenticeship Training Course in which apprentice is paid stipend ;

(b) if so, by which agency the stipend is paid, by Government or by the company through which he has been sponsored, and the rate of stipend paid to the apprentice ;

(c) whether it is a fact that certain companies are not paying stipend to the trainees in the first year even after the agreement has been signed ;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to make the payment to the apprentices by Government or by the sponsoring company under the agreement ; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that some percentage of stipend is paid by Government to the Company, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI DHARMAVIR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The employers are required to pay every apprentice during the period of

apprenticeship training such stipend at a rate not less than the prescribed minimum rate or the rate which was being paid by the employer on 1st January, 1970, to the category of apprentices under which such apprentices falls, whichever is higher, as may be specified in the contract of apprenticeship. The minimum rates of stipend payable to apprentices are given in the statement attached. Recurring cost, including the cost of stipend, incurred by an employer in connection with practical training, including basic training, imparted to trade apprentices, other than those who have successfully undergone a recognised institutional training as referred to in clauses (a) and (aa) of Section 6 of the Apprentices Act shall be borne :

(i) If such employer employs 500 workers or more, by the employer.

(ii) If such employer employs less than 500 workers, by the employer and the Government in equal share upto such limit as may be laid down by the Central Government and beyond that limit by the employer, alone. The limit laid down at present is Rs. 360/— per month.

The cost of stipend in respect of graduate and technician apprentices, is borne by the Central Government and the employer, in equal shares upto such limit, as may be laid down by the Central Government and beyond that limit by the employer alone, which are detailed in the Annexure.

(c) No cases have come to notice of this Ministry where the establishments are not paying stipend to the trainees in the 1st year even after the contract of apprenticeship is signed. Further, it may be pointed out that is a statutory obligation on the part of employers to pay the stipend to apprentices as detailed above.

(d) Does not arise, in view of answer to part (c) above.

(e) Details have been furnished in the answer to part (b) of the question.

Statement

The minimum rates of stipend payable to trade apprentices, graduate and technician apprentices.

A. Trade Apprentices :

- | | | |
|--|---|-----------------|
| (i) During the first year of training. | : | Rs. 230/- p. m. |
| (ii) During the second year of training | : | Rs. 260/- p. m. |
| (iii) During the third year of training | : | Rs. 300/- p. m. |
| (iv) During the fourth year of training. | : | Rs. 350/- p. m. |

B. Graduate and Technician Apprentices :

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| (i) Engineering Graduates | : | Rs. 450/- p. m. (for post institutional training). |
| (ii) Sandwich Course Students from Degree Institutions. | : | Rs. 320/- p. m. |
| (iii) Diploma Holders | : | Rs. 320/- p. m. (for post institutional training). |
| (iv) Sandwich course student from Diploma Institutions | : | Rs. 250/- p. m. |

Concessions to Metropolitan Newspapers on Telephone and Telegrams Etc.

7848. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of concessions being given by Government to Metropolitan newspapers on telephone and telegrams etc. ;

(b) whether it is a fact that such facilities are not being given to small newspapers ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the President of All India Small Newspapers has urged the Government to Change the Posts and Telegraphs Act to provide the same facilities to small newspapers also as are provided to the Metropolitan Newspapers ; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this direction ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL) : (a) No concession is separately given to the Metropolitan News-papers.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Physically Handicapped Persons Registered in Employment Exchanges

7849. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of physically handicapped job seekers registered with various employment exchanges in the country as in December, 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983, category-wise ;