

Promotion of Section Officers to Selection Grade under 2nd Pay Commission's recommendations

4991. Shri M. L. Sondhi: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Second Pay Commission had recommended a Selection Grade for the Section Officers, CPWD (Building and Road and Electrical side) who could not be promoted in the Assistant Engineer's grade because of the inadequate outlet;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have created/converted 94 posts of Section Officers into Selection Grade Posts with effect from 1-7-59 in view of the Pay Commission's recommendations;

(c) whether it is a fact that 94 persons have been performing the duties of Selection Grade Section Officers since its creation/conversion i.e. 1-7-59; and

(d) if so, why these persons are being paid the salary of the Selection Grade w.e.f. 3-10-63 and not w.e.f. 1-7-59 i.e. the date conversion of the posts?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Iqbal Singh): (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) and (d). There is no difference in the duties performed by Section Officers in the Ordinary or the Selection Grade. All the Section Officers working as such, and not merely 94, have been performing the duties of Section Officers since the 1st July, 1959. Until the 3rd October, 1963 no pay higher than the substantive pay was admissible on an officiating appointment to a Selection Grade post which did not involve assumption of duties or responsibilities of greater importance. This rule was relaxed with effect from the 3rd October, 1963 and hence Section Officers appointed to officiate in the Selection Grade are being paid the salary of the Selection Grade with effect from 3rd October, 1963.

Excise Duty on Paints and Varnishes

4992. Shri Yajna Datt Sharma: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of Central Excise duty per litre in respect of varnishes/paints enamel irrespective of their cost or quality is the same;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the cost of varnishes produced by big manufacturers is higher than that of small scale manufacturers and thus the same rate of excise works to the detriment of the interests of the small manufacturers;

(c) whether Government have received any representations from small-scale paints and varnishes manufacturers of Amritsar against this discrimination, and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in the matter?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The price of varnish depends on a number of factors including the cost of raw materials, process of manufacture and the quality of the final product. Lower effective rates of duty have been prescribed in respect of varnishes cleared by manufacturers whose output of all varnishes and blacks for a financial year does not exceed 450 kilolitres.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir.

Since the small-scale manufacturers are required to pay duty at lower rates than the big manufacturers, there is no discrimination against the small-scale manufacturer, and consequently the question of taking steps does not arise.

Excise Duty on Paints and Varnishes

4993. Shri Yajna Datt Sharma: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exemption limit from the levy of Con-