

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : My general answer covers this question. It is not possible to answer with reference to each of the 460 districts of the country.

[Translation]

Reinstatement of Employees

*207. **SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the employees dismissed under Rule 14(ii) of the Railway Servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules have since been reinstated; and
- (b) if not, the time by which these employees are likely to be re-instated ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) : Those employees whose appeals were upheld departmentally and those who were required to be taken back as per judicial orders have been reinstated. The issue regarding the remaining cases is under consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue is so important that it has been a matter of discussion in the House for the last two years. When the Congress Party was in the opposition, its Members raised this demand persistently. The then Railway Minister had said categorically that the Government would certainly do away with this rule and the dismissed employees would be reinstated. But I am distressed to point out that the reply which the hon. Minister has given say... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You know the question and the reply is also before you. Now you put the second supplementary.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : What is troubling me is that the

Government had given this assurance at the time of presentation of Railway Budget also, but now the reply says that those employees whose appeals were upheld departmentally and those who...

MR. SPEAKER : This has already been read out. You put the question.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : What I want to say is that the reply given by the hon. Minister has no meaning at all. I want a categorical reply in the matter. I would like to know the number of such employees and the time by which they would be reinstated ? To say that the matter is under consideration would not help. Tell us the time by which they would be reinstated.

SHRI M. MALLIKARJUN : Sir, actually the issue was raised that there are 700 people to be re-instated. In fact, it is not like that... (Interruptions). There were 711 persons, out of whom 611 belonged to LRSA and 100 belonged to some other organisations. Then, out of the 611 because of appeals and revision, 20 people were taken and then again because of appeals and revision from non-LRSA Association 18 people were taken, making it altogether 38. Then, because of the judicial judgements 268 of LRSA were taken and one of non-LRSA person was taken. That is how a total of 288 LRSA persons re-instated and 19 of the non-LRSA persons have been re-instated, leaving behind 323 of LRSA persons and 81 of non-LRSA persons to be re-instated. However, in the meanwhile, 70 people have attained super-annuation and before achieving the superannuation 11 people had died. After achieving the super-annuation three people had died. Now, out of 404 total to be re-instated, it is only 320 people left for re-instatement... (Interruptions). As you are all aware last time in the Budget reply the Minister has also committed that this matter will be considered in the Cabinet... (Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, last time also, it was said that their cases would be considered sympathetically. The hon. Minister is present in the House. I want a reply on

two specific points. Firstly, I want to know the steps being taken to do away with rule 14(ii). Secondly, I want to know whether the employees are still being dismissed under rule 14(ii) and whether any employee has been dismissed under rule 14(ii) in the recent past ?

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Sir, 14(ii) is a part of Railway Rules and Railway administration has got the option for removal from the service under 14(ii). It is also protected by the Constitution.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second point whether employees are still being removed from service under rule 14(ii) has not been replied to.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the figures mentioned by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways are not correct. Shri George Fernandes made a statement on 8th September and then again on 22 November that there were 691 persons. He mentioned the same figures both in his order and in his statement. The reply which the Minister has given is a vague one. The matter was raised when the Minister was replying to the Debate on Railways Budget and he had stated that he would consider it sympathetically. I would like to quote what Shri Janeshwar Mishra had stated on 11 March, 1991.

[Translation]

"On behalf of my Ministry, I would like to give an assurance that we are going to take a decision to reinstate all the dismissed employees. But the proposal has to be sent to the Cabinet for approval as was done earlier. After the proposal is approved by the Cabinet it will go to the President for his assent. Then only further action will be taken."

[English]

May I know from the Minister, when will this matter of reinstatement of dismissed Railway Employees—who are out of job for the last 11 years, whose figures are not 300 and odd but more than 700—be referred to the Cabinet ? Has it been referred to the Cabinet and when will they be taken back ?

MR. SPEAKER : The question is whether this has been referred to the Cabinet.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : It will be referred to the Cabinet. But, let me also make it clear that the figure is not 700. The figures furnished to me and to Shri George Fernandes were furnished by the Railways only. Let me remove this doubt that the figure is not 700. So far as the other part is concerned, after Shri Janeshwar Misra referred to the matter in the House in April, a Cabinet Memorandum was prepared and it was sent to the Law Ministry and also the Personnel Ministry. But, the Law Ministry did not comment anything and so far nothing has been sent to the Cabinet. We are considering to take it up with the Cabinet.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, he has not answered to my question. I wanted to know when will it be sent to the Cabinet ?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : As early as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the course of Hon. Railway Minister's reply to the discussion on last Budget, I had asked him as to how long will the Democles Sword of rule 14(ii) hang over their heads. In reply to that he had said that the government was going to do away with it soon. The new Railway Budget has come, but the employees continue to suffer as before. Through you, I would like to know specifically from the Hon. Minister the time by which he is going to fulfil the assurance which he gave in this House as also the time by which rule 14(ii) which is hanging over

the heads of employees like Democles Sword is going to be scrapped ?

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Sir, there is no question of deleting Rule 14(ii) from the Railway Rules.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Some time back the Hon. Minister had said that there were 409 employees who had to be reinstated. (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : The figure is 404 and not 409.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Whatever the figure may be, some of them have expired and some of them have reached the superannuation age. Just because they have died, the problems of their families will not be over; and just because superannuation age has been reached, the problem of an employee will not be over. When you reconsider all these points, I would like to know whether you will sympathetically take know consideration the cases of those employees who have died or reached the age of superannuation.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Sir, when a final decision takes place, it is obligatory to take care of those who have died as also of those who have reached the age of superannuation. It has to be seen, what type of *modus operandi* has to be created for them.

[Translation]

PER CAPITA POWER CONSUMPTION IN BIHAR

*208. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the comparative per capita power consumption in the country, North Bihar, Chhota Nagpur and in the rest of Bihar during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the steps being taken to bring North Bihar at par with the whole State of Bihar and also with the whole country in regard to the consumption of power;

(c) whether power is not being supplied to Madhubani and Darbhanga districts from Kanti Power Plant; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken or proposed to be taken for adequate power supply in both the districts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The requisite information is given below :—

Region	Per Capita Consumption (Kwh)		
	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
North Bihar	17.47	19.65	23.36
South Bihar	53.47	59.57	70.39
Chhota Nagpur	287.61	288.04	297.82
Bihar as a whole	94.08	94.85	101.20
India as a whole	177.98	191.75	203.02