

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)

EIGHTH REPORT



(Presented to Lok Sabha on 24.7.2001)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

July, 2001/Sravana, 1923 (Saka)

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CONTENTS

	PAGES
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS	(iii)
I INTRODUCTION	(v)
II REPORT	1
I. Action taken by Government on the recommendations of the Committee on Petitions contained in their Second Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the representation requesting for pay-revision and other benefits for employees of MICA Division of the MMTC Ltd. (Kolkata) after merger of MICA trading Corporation of India (MITCO) with the MMTC Ltd.	1
II. Action taken by Government on the recommendations made by the Committee on Petitions (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) in their Third Report on the petition requesting for re-transfer of National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC) from Ministry of Water Resources to Ministry of Power.	6
III. Action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee on Petitions (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) in their Fourth Report on the representation requesting for upgradation of Post of Assistant Naval Store Officers to Assistant Naval Store Officer-I of Civilian Officers working in Navy and implementation of other recommendations of the Vth Pay Commission.	10
IV. Representation regarding starting a Post Office in Vidhyadhar Nagar, Jaipur.	15

**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS
(2001-2002)**

Shri Basudeb Acharia — *Chairman*

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**EIGHTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS
(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on Petitions, having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Eighth Report of the Committee to the House on the following matters:

- (i) Action taken by Government on the recommendations made by the Committee on Petitions in their Second Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the representation requesting for pay-revision and other benefits for employees of MICA Division of the MMTC Ltd. (Kolkata) after merger of MICA Trading Corporation of India (MITCO) with the MMTC Ltd.
 - (ii) Action taken by Government on the recommendations made by the Committee on Petitions (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) in their Third Report on the petition requesting for re-transfer of national Project(s) Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC) from the Ministry of Water Resources to the Ministry of Power.
 - (iii) Action taken by Government on the recommendations made by the Committee on Petitions (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) in their Fourth Report on the representation requesting for upgradation of Post of Assistant Naval Store Officer to Assistant Naval Store Officer-I of Civilian Officers working in Navy and implementation of other recommendations of the Vth Pay Commission.
 - (iv) Gist of the representation regarding starting a Post Office in Vidhyadhar Nagar, Jaipur.
2. The Committee considered and adopted the draft Report at their sitting held on 14 June, 2001.
3. The observations/recommendations of the Committee on the above matters have been included in the Report.

NEW DELHI;
July, 2001

Savana, 1923 (Saka)

BASUDEB ACHARIA,
Chairman,
Committee on Petitions.

CHAPTER I

ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS CONTAINED IN THEIR SECOND REPORT (THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA) ON THE REPRESENTATION REQUESTING FOR PAY-REVISION AND OTHER BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYEES OF MICA DIVISION OF THE MMTC LTD. (KOLKATA) AFTER MERGER OF MICA TRADING CORPORATION OF INDIA (MITCO) WITH THE MMTC LTD.

The Committee on Petitions in their Second Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) presented to Lok Sabha on 2nd August, 2000 had dealt with a representation requesting for pay-revision and other benefits for employees of MICA Division of the MMTC Ltd. (Kolkata) after merger of MICA Trading Corporation of India (MITCO) with the MMTC Ltd.

1.2 The Committee had made certain observations/recommendations in the matter and the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce were requested to implement those recommendations and furnish their action taken notes for the consideration of the Committee.

1.3 Action taken notes have been received from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce in respect of the recommendations contained in the Report.

1.4 The Committee will now deal with action taken by Government on some of their recommendations.

1.5 In para 2.36 of the Report, the Committee observed as follows:—

“The Committee note that MICA Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MITCO) was set up as a wholly owned subsidiary of MMTC Ltd. in 1973. After it became sick, MITCO was referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in 1993 under the SIC Act. In terms of BIFR's order dated 8.4.1996, MITCO was merged with MMTC Ltd. w.e.f. 1.4.1994. BIFR sanctioned a rehabilitation cum amalgamation/merger scheme for MITCO with an estimated cost of Rs. 1299.02 lakhs. Consequent upon merger erstwhile MITCO became the MICA Division of MMTC Ltd. and all the employees of MITCO were transferred to the MICA Division.”-

1.6 In para 2.37 of the Report, the Committee observed as follows:—

“The Committee have been informed that BIFR's rehabilitation scheme envisaged *inter-alia* that all employees of MITCO who were

being retained in service would become employees of MMTC without interruption in their services in any manner. The terms and conditions of service applicable to such employees on the effective date of merger would not be less favourable than those applicable to them immediately before the transfer date.”

1.7 In para 2.38 of the Report, the Committee observed as follows:—

“One of the main demands of the petitioners is that the employees of erstwhile MITCO should be given pay scales and other financial benefits at par with other employees of MMTC Ltd. since MITCO has been merged with MMTC. They have also informed the Committee that the employees of MITCO enjoyed terms and conditions at par with the employees of MMTC even when MITCO was subsidiary of MMTC in 1987. The petitioners have also stated that though the pay-revisions were due in 1992 and again in 1997, pay-scales of employees of MICA Division have not been revised though wages of MMTC’s employees including officers have been revised *w.e.f.* 1992. Pay-scales of MMTC’s officers were again revised *w.e.f.* 1.1.1997.”

1.8 The Committee recommended in para 2.40 of their 2nd Report as follows:—

“The Committee are not inclined to accept the contention of Government that neither any interim relief nor any pay revision could be announced in respect of employees of MICA Division since BIFR order of 8 April, 1996 did not provide for wage revision of any category of employees. They wish to point that the BIFR order simply envisaged that for the employees of MITCO who were being retained in service on the date of merger with MMTC, the services did not stand interrupted and “the terms and conditions of service applicable to such employees on the effective date is in no way less favourable to them than those applicable to them immediately before the transfer date.” The order in no way debarred MMTC from revising the pay-scales of employees of erstwhile MITCO (now MICA Division of MMTC). Since the pay scales of officers of the MICA Division have not been revised after 1.11.1987, the Committee recommend that their pay scales should be revised to make them at par with officers and staff of MMTC. The pay scales of workers of MICA Division which were introduced as far back as in July 1984 should also be suitably revised.”

1.9 In their action taken note, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce have stated that the revision of pay of the employees of erstwhile MITCO and officers at par with MMTC would involve an arrear payment of about Rs. 15 crore, and a continuing additional financial burden of Rs. 2.5 crore per annum. If it is done with prospective effect, then it would entail an additional annual cost of about

Rs. 2.5 crore thus raising the total wage bill from Rs. 2.79 crore to Rs. 5.29 crore, approximately. BIFR has stipulated total manpower of 220 at prevailing wage levels to make it a viable Division. The current figure was 400. Therefore, till such time that 220 figure is reached, viability would remain doubtful even with existing wages. MMTC itself was passing through a very critical phase and was struggling to remain afloat in a highly competitive environment. With this objective in view, MMTC was contemplating to reduce its own manpower substantially so that its cost of operations remained at a reasonable level so as to be cost effective in the marketplace. Therefore, any addition to its overheads was likely to affect its competitiveness. It was pertinent to mention that even after taking into account two assumptions, viz continuation of canalization Mica scrap till 2003 and achievement of the perspective plan, the resultant profit was as low as about Rs. 20 lakhs per annum at the current wage levels. If the revised salary was implemented, it would convert the projected meagre profit of around Rs. 20 lakhs to a loss of about Rs. 2.30 crore per annum. MMTC, with depleting profits would have difficulty in bearing this enhanced additional burden.

Observations/Recommendations

1.10 The Committee express their displeasure over the fact that in spite of a specific recommendation that the pay scales of employees of erstwhile MITCO (now MICA Division of MMTC) should be revised to make them at par with officers and staff of MMTC, no concrete efforts have been made by the Government in this regard. The Committee are informed that the revision of pay of the employees and officers of erstwhile MITCO at par with the MMTC would involve an arrear payment of about Rs. 15 crore, and continuing additional burden of Rs. 2.5 crore per annum. However, the Committee wish to emphasise that after the merger of erstwhile MITCO, it has become a Division of MMTC itself and the employees of this Division should not be treated in a different way than those of other Divisions of the company. They therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and desire that the Government should review the matter in the right perspective so as to provide suitable pay scales and benefits to the employees of erstwhile MITCO treating them at par with other employees of the Company.

1.11. In paras 2.42 and 2.43, of their 2nd Report the Committee has observed as follows:—

“The Committee note that the ‘Medium Term Perspective Plan’ prepared on the assumption that the canalisation of Mica scrap would continue upto 2002-03 envisages the total exports of MICA scrap/products to increase from Rs. 1,277 lakhs (Provisional) in 1999-2000 to Rs. 2,000 lakhs in 2002-03. The gross sales of MICA Division are expected to increase from Rs. 1,349 lakhs (Provisional) in 1999-2000 to Rs. 2,510 lakhs in 2002-03 and

the net profit of the division is expected to be Rs. 30 lakhs, Rs. 19 lakhs and Rs. 25 lakhs during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively.

(Para 2.42)

The Committee recommend that all out efforts be made to enhance the profitability of the MICA Division through increase in exports of the MICA scrap and other MICA products. The upgradation of technology/plant and machinery now underway should be completed within a specified time-frame. The Committee also suggest that regular orientation and training programmes be conducted for the staff of MICA Division to enhance efficiency and to increase the turn-over of the MICA Division. The Committee are sure that if these steps are taken and the Medium Term Perspective Plan is implemented seriously, the MICA Division would soon turn into a profitable Division."

(Para 2.43)

1.12. In their action taken note, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce have stated that all possible efforts will be made to make MICA Division a profitable Division.

Observation/Recommendation

1.13 The Committee desire that improved managerial techniques should be utilised and operational costs reduced to improve the viability of the MICA Division.

1.14 In the para 2.44 of the Report, the Committee had observed as follows:—

"The Committee have been informed that there were 531 employees of MITCO at the time of merger. About 125 people opted for VRS. Now there were around 400 employees in the MICA Division against 220 recommended by BIFR. The petitioners had brought to the notice of the Committee that many of the employees of erstwhile MITCO were transferred to different places in the country, specially the union leaders of the MICA Trading Corporation Employees Association, MMTTC (MICA Division). The Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry explained during evidence that the transfers were effected because there was no work and the employees were sent on transfer to such places where they could perform work. However, the Committee note that the deployment of the employees of MICA Division to far off places is being reviewed by MMTTC on a case to case basis to accommodate the deserving employees subject to administrative/business requirement. This should be expeditiously done. The Union Leaders should not be disturbed as far as possible."

1.15 In their action taken note of September, 2000 the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce have stated that

deployment of the employees of MICA Division to far off places will be reviewed by MMTC periodically on a case to case basis to accommodate the deserving employees subject to administrative/business requirements. Subsequently, on 1 May, 2001 the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce informed that MMTC have reviewed the status of deployment of employees of MICA Division from far off places to their base stations in consideration of the difficulties expressed by these employees pertaining to serious illness of self, wife, parents and children etc. and have transferred a total of 55 employees to the base stations in three phases during October, 2000 to February, 2001. .

Observation/Recommendation

1.16 The Committee observe that with the intervention of the Committee the deployment/transfers of employees of MICA Division to far off places has been reviewed by MMTC and a total of 55 employees have been transferred back to their stations in consideration of serious illness of self, wife, parents and children etc. The Committee expect that in case there are more such deserving cases, the same would be reviewed expeditiously under intimation to the Committee.

CHAPTER II

ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA) IN THEIR THIRD REPORT ON THE PETITION REQUESTING FOR RE-TRANSFER OF NATIONAL PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD. (NPCC) FROM MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES TO MINISTRY OF POWER

The Committee on petitions (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) had in their Third Report presented to Lok Sabha on 22 August, 2000 dealt with a petition presented to the House by Shri Basudeb Acharia, MP on 2 December, 1998. The petition was signed by Shri Binoy Mukherjee, Working President and Shri Anup Kumar Roy, General Secretary of NPCC Workers Union of India and 115 other workers of the National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd. (NPCC), Calcutta regarding re-transfer of NPCC from the Ministry of Water Resources to the Ministry of Power.

2.2 The Ministries of Water Resources and Power were requested to furnish their action taken notes indicating action taken by them to implement the recommendations made by the Committee for their consideration. The replies of the Ministries of Water Resources and Power have been received. The recommendations made by the Committee and the replies thereto furnished by the Ministries of Water Resources and Power are discussed in the succeeding paragraphs.

2.3 The main observations/recommendations of the Committee were contained in paragraph Nos. 27 to 29 and 31 of the Third Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) which are reproduced below:—

“The Committee note that the National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd. (NPCC) was established in the year 1957 under the Companies Act, 1956 to act as contracting agency in the public sector for undertaking river valley projects, power projects, high-way and industrial projects etc. At that time, it was under the Ministry of Irrigation and Power. The Committee have been informed that the company performed well during the first 10 years of its operation and made continuous profits. It incurred heavy losses during the next five years but from 1972-73 to 1984-85, it made marginal profits. Since 1985-86, the financial position of the company deteriorated, its net worth became negative in the year 1989-90. NPCC was transferred from the administrative control of the Ministry of Power to the Ministry of Water Resources on 28.8.1989.”

(Para 27)

The main contention of the petitioners was that the financial health of the company further deteriorated after it was placed under the Ministry of Water Resources as a sick company since it was neither getting projects for execution nor the funds from internal or external agencies like World Bank. The petitioners requested that NPCC be placed under the Ministry of Power again which would facilitate more jobs for the company from National Thermal Power Corporation, National Hydro-electric Power Corporation, Damodar Valley Corporation, Tehri Hydro Development Corporation and Power Engineers Training Society (now National Power Training Institute).

(Para 28)

After examination of the matter in detail, the Committee found that the Ministry of Water Resources are not averse to retransfer of NPCC to the Ministry of Power. In fact, they had even requested the Ministry of Power to take NPCC again under their control so that it could get more jobs from National Thermal Power Corporation, National Hydro-electric Power Corporation, Damodar Valley Corporation, Tehri Hydro Development Corporation etc. However, according to the Ministry of Power 75% of the projects executed by NPCC have been in the non-power sector. Moreover, even if it is brought under the Ministry of Power, it would have to go through competitive bidding. It would not be possible to give any preferential treatment to NPCC except the 10 per cent purchase preference which it is already entitled to, being a public sector company. The Committee desire that in view of the fact that NPCC had been under the Ministry of Power since its inception till it was transferred to the Ministry of Water Resources and at present 59 per cent of its work is from the Ministry of Power, the feasibility of its retransfer from the Ministry of Water Resources to the Ministry of Power should be considered by the Government.

(Para 29)

The main reasons for the petitioners' demand for retransfer of NPCC to the Ministry of Power, as agreed to by the Ministry of Water Resources are sickness of the company and late payment of salary. In other words, if the financial health of the company is improved, the hardships being faced by the employees would be mitigated to a large extent. The Committee in their first Report (11th Lok Sabha) presented to Lok Sabha on 11th March, 1997 had recommended for an early decision in regard to the revival of NPCC. However, they are constrained to observe that the revival plan has

still not been finalised by the Government even after a lapse of more than three years. Pending finalisation of the revival plan, the Government have to provide non-plan assistance to NPCC for payment of salaries and other statutory wages of the employees. Such assistance during 1999-2000 was to the tune of Rs. 10 crore. The Committee, therefore recommend that in order to liquidate the arrears of statutory dues of the employees and to improve the financial health of NPCC, the revival plan should be finalised and implemented without any further delay. The revival plan should also safeguard the interest of the employees including those stated to be surplus. The Committee also desire that till such time as NPCC is transferred back to the Ministry of Power, concerted efforts should be made not only by the Ministry of Water Resources but also by the Ministry of Power for securing enough jobs for NPCC from public undertaking/State Governments and other organisations.

(Para 31)

2.4. In their action taken note, the Ministry of power have stated that the proposal regarding transfer of administrative control of NPCC from Ministry of Water Resources to Ministry of Power has been reconsidered and it has been decided not to take over NPCC. It was felt that the Ministry of Water Resources, being the administrative Ministry of NPCC, should implement their revival plan and Ministry of Power who has already extended its support by issuing instructions to its Public Sector Undertakings/Organisations for placing orders for construction work etc. would continue to give support to NPCC in this regard.

2.5. The Ministry of Water Resources have also stated in their action taken reply that the Ministry of Power was not in favour of transfer of NPCC to their administrative control. On the revival plan for NPCC Ltd. the Ministry of Water Resources have stated that the revival plan prepared by them has since been got evaluated by M/s IDBI. The Report of the IDBI has since been received in the Ministry in the last week of November, 2000. Based on this report further action was being taken. The revival plan would safeguard the interest of the employees including the surplus staff of the corporation. Pending revival plan the Government would continue to provide non-plan assistance to NPCC Ltd. subject to the availability of the funds. Regarding the securing of jobs for NPCC Ltd., Ministry of Power have been requested to direct the organisations under its control to provide jobs for NPCC Ltd. In addition, Ministry of Water Resources is also making efforts for securing jobs for NPCC Ltd.

Observations/Recommendations

2.6. The Committee note that the Revival Plan for NPCC Ltd. prepared by Ministry of Water Resources has been evaluated by IDBI and it has been

received in the Ministry of Water Resources in November, 2000. The Committee, therefore, desire that the revival plan should be implemented in right earnest without any further loss of time, so as to reduce its dependence on non-plan assistance from Government. They would also like to emphasise that the interests of the employees of NPCC Ltd. must be safeguarded.

CHAPTER III

ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA) IN THEIR FOURTH REPORT ON THE REPRESENTATION REQUESTING FOR UPGRADATION OF POST OF ASSISTANT NAVAL STORE OFFICER TO ASSISTANT NAVAL STORE OFFICER-I OF CIVILIAN OFFICERS WORKING IN NAVY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE VTH PAY COMMISSION.

The Committee on Petitions (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) in their Fourth Report presented to Lok Sabha on 24th November, 2000 had dealt with a representation received from Shri O.P. Asija, President, Indian Navy Civilian Officers Association requesting for upgradation of post of Assistant Naval Store Officer to Assistant Naval Store Officer-I of Civilian Officers Working in Navy and implementation of other recommendations of the Vth Pay Commission.

3.2 The Ministry of Defence was requested to furnish their action taken notes indicating action taken by them to implement the recommendations made by the Committee for their consideration. The replies of the Ministry of Defence have been received. The recommendations made by the Committee and the replies thereto furnished by the Ministry of Defence are discussed in the succeeding paragraphs.

3.3 In paragraph 27 of the Fourth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha), the Committee recommended as follows:—

“The Committee note that the main grievances of the petitioners (Indian Navy Civilian Officers Association) were regarding non-implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission in regard to upgradation of the post of ANSO to ANSO-I, creation/upgradation of the post of Sr. Director/Director and formation of Indian Naval Engineering Service. In regard to ANSO, the Ministry of Defence after examination of the matter have redistributed the 94 existing posts of ANSO in two revised grades of Rs. 8000-13500 and Rs.6500-10500 in the ratio of 2:1 with the designations ANSO-I and ANSO-II respectively. It has also been provided that such of those existing incumbents of the post of ANSO in the scale of Rs.6500-10500 as have rendered the prescribed service of 5 years may be placed in the scale of Rs.8000-13500 prospectively subject to their being found fit for being promoted to the Group 'A' post as per existing procedure. The petitioners have, however contended that the

requirement of five years service as ANSO should be removed since it was a case of upgradation and not promotion. Besides, suitability of the existing ANSOs as on 5 August, 1999 *i.e.* date of issue of the orders need not be assessed again and they might be upgraded as ANSO-I *w.e.f.* 1.1.1996 without applying any eligibility conditions as had been done in the case of certain other categories of posts under the Government of India. The Committee recommend that the plea of the petitioners should be examined in the light of the practices followed by other Ministries/Departments under Government of India, so as to ensure that there is no discrimination in this regard."

3.4 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Defence have stated that in pursuance of the recommendation of the Vth Central Pay Commission, the Cadre of Naval Store Officer (NSO) was re-structured *vide* Ministry of Defence letter No. CP(G)/0667/NHQ/1591/MoD/(N-II) dated 05 August, 1999 as given below:

Name of post	Pay Scale	No. of posts Pre-VCPC	No. of posts Post-VCPC
Senior Director	18400-22400	—	01
Director	14300-18300	01	02
Jt. Director	3700-5000(pre-revised)	02	—
SNSO	12000-16500	06	06
NSO	10000-15200	39	39
ANSO	6500-10500	94	—
ANSO-I	8000-13500	—	63
ANSO-II	6500-10500	—	31

The posts of Sr. Director and ANSO-I did not exist prior to VCPC and have been created as per the Vth Pay Commission recommendations. In accordance with the recommendations, the effective date of implementation of new pay scales are as under:—

Category of Posts	Date for Granting New Pay Scales
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- (a) In respect of posts in existence *w.e.f.* 01 January, 1996 and whose pay scales have been upgraded.

Category of Posts	Date for Granting New Pay Scales
(b) In respect of posts required to be created involving re-structuring of cadre.	Prospective w.e.f. the date of creation of posts and after following the selection procedures.

The restructuring of cadre of ANSO, as ANSO-I and ANSO-II in the pay scale of Rs. 8000-13500 and 6500-10500 respectively is not a mere substitution of scale of pay but formation of an order of hierarchy. An incumbent, on elevation from ANSO-II to ANSO-I, is expected to shoulder higher amount of responsibility. Thus, separate Recruitment Rules seems to be the necessity. However, with a view to implementing and granting the benefit intended by the Government order creating new post of ANSO-I, a proposal was taken up by Ministry of Defence in consultation with UPSC to convene a DPC for promotion of incumbents who have completed 5 years of service as ANSO as a one-time measure. UPSC has approved the proposal of Ministry of Defence to hold the DPC based on "Method of Recruitment" pending the finalisation of Recruitment Rules. The incumbents have accordingly been promoted as ANSO-I, after following, the prescribed procedures and the DPC held under the aegis of UPSC. Post of ANSO-I have been/would be filled by promotion from the existing ANSO-II, who have completed 5 years services in the Grade. While taking the above course of action, the plea of petitioners was examined by Ministry of Defence in consultation with Ministry of Finance (IMP-Cell), who held that the benefit can be given prospectively and not from 1 January, 1996".

Observation/Recommendation

3.5. The Committee had observed in their earlier Report that the main grievances of the petitioners (Indian Navy Civilian Officers Association) were regarding non-implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission in regard to upgradation of the post of ANSO to ANSO-I, creation/upgradation of the post of Sr. Director/Director and formation of Indian Naval Engineering Service. In regard to ANSO, the Ministry of Defence had redistributed the 94 existing posts of ANSO in two revised grades of Rs. 8000-13500 and Rs. 6500-10500 in the ratio of 2:1 with the designation ANSO-I and ANSO-II respectively. The Committee were informed that the existing incumbents of the post of ANSO in the scale of Rs. 6500-10500 having rendered the prescribed service of 5 years would be placed in the scale of Rs. 8000-13500 prospectively subject to their being

found fit for promotion to the Group 'A' post. However, the petitioners had contended that placing the existing incumbents of the post ANSO to ANSO-I was a case of upgradation and not promotion. The Committee had, therefore, recommended that the plea of the petitioners should be examined in the light of the practices followed by other Ministries/Departments of Government of India. The Ministry of Defence in their action taken reply have stated that the incumbents have been promoted as ANSO-I, after following the prescribed procedures and DPC held under the aegis of UPSC. Although, the Committee trust that application of rules would have been adhered to while upgradation/promotion of the incumbents in the post of ANSO they recommend that the implementation of the recommendation of the V CPC regarding upgradation of ANSO post may be made in the right earnest so that the existing incumbents ANSOs are given their claims judiciously and the main intention behind the recommendation of V CPC does not get diluted.

3.6. In paragraph 29 of the Fourth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha), the Committee had observed as follows:—

“The Committee note that the government have not found it feasible for functional reasons to implement the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendation regarding formation of Indian Naval Engineering Service (INES) by merging the cadre of Indian Naval Armament Service, Civilian Technical Officers and Naval Store Officers. However, the Committee feel that the Fifth Pay Commission had made this recommendation on the basis of a suggestion for making the cadre of Naval Store Organisation an organized one. In view of the fact that the formation of INES has not been found feasible, the Committee desire that the original suggestion of making the Naval Store Organisation an organized service may be examined afresh.

3.7. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Defence have stated that this cadre still does not have an officer of Senior Administrative Grade. Further, no direct recruitment in Group A has yet been done. Thus, this point could be examined in due course of time subject to service and functional requirements.

3.8. In paragraph 30 of the Fourth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha), the Committee observed as follows:—

“The Committee understand that the orders issued in August, 1999 for upgradation of posts of ANSO as well as Sr. Director/Director have still not been implemented pending consultation with UPSC/ amendment of Recruitment Rules. The Committee recommend that this should be done without any further delay”.

3.9 In their action taken reply the Ministry of Defence have stated that the upgradation of ANSO-I has, already, been implemented with the promotion of 27 eligible ANSO-II. The Draft Recruitment Rules for all the posts in the cadre including Senior Director/Director have also been

framed and approved by the DOP&T and at present stand referred to UPSC for approval. Besides, for ensuring the implementation of the V CPC recommendations in respect of Naval Store Officers cadre, following action has already been taken:—

- (a) The NSO cadre has been restructured with the creation of one post of Senior Director. Two posts of Joint Director upgraded as Director and 63 posts of ANSO-I have been created by upgradation of the post of ANSO.
- (b) 27 eligible officers have been promoted to the grade of ANSO-I.
- (c) The draft recruitment rules; for the post of Senior Director, Director and ANSO-I have been framed/amended and forwarded to UPSC for consideration/approval.
- (d) The proposals for promotion to the Grade of Senior Director and Director would be processed immediately after approval of the Recruitment Rules.

Observation/Recommendation

3.10 The Committee regret to note that inspite of the recommendation of the Committee, the Ministry of Defence, have not made any fresh examination of the matter relating to making the Naval Store Organisation an organised service. The Committee reiterate that the feasibility of formation of National Store Organisation as an organised service may be worked out by the Government at the earliest keeping in view the functional requirements. The Committee desire that the required recruitment rules for the civilian cadre including the post of Senior Director/Director may be finalised soon.

CHAPTER IV
REPRESENTATION REGARDING STARTING A POST OFFICE IN
VIDHYADHAR NAGAR, JAIPUR

Shri V.V. Saxena from Vidhyadhar Nagar, Jaipur in his representation dated 11 January, 2001 addressed to Chairman, Committee on Petitions, had stated that Vidhyadhar Nagar, a newly developed township in Jaipur, which comprises of ten sectors and old area of Vidhyadhar Nagar with a population of over forty thousand, has not been provided with any post office. This cause immense difficulties to the residents of the area. He, therefore, requested for starting a Post Office in Vidhyadhar Nagar area for prompt delivery of Postal articles to the residents.

4.2 The Ministry of Communications (Department of Posts) with whom the matter was taken up have *vide* their U.O. dated 4 April, 2001 furnished their comments intimating *inter-alia* that a Post Office has been opened at Vidhyadhar Nagar, Jaipur on 31.3.2001.

4.3 The Committee note with satisfaction that through their intervention, the main demand of the petitioner has been met.