

of Draftsmen and those of the Junior Engineers were equal. As per the report submitted by the Third Pay Commission, the scale of pay of Draftsmen working in the department of Urban Development had become a little less and those working in other departments had been increased a little. Prior to that the scales of pay of junior engineers and those of the Draftsmen were equal. Thereafter, the Draftsmen represented against reduction in their pay scales. Their case was also referred to J.C.M. In the arbitration award, it was stated that it was an anomaly and the pay scales of these Draftsmen should brought at par with other Draftsmen.

[*English*]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam Minister, you can continue your reply after lunch.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Sir, I will complete within 15 minutes.

(*Interruptions*)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: We can adjourn for lunch now. Let the Minister continue her reply thereafter. We do not want to restrict the time for her reply. Let us give a lengthy reply, after 2 O' clock.

Madam Minister, you can continue your speech after the lunch hour is over.

13.00 hrs

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock*

14.05 hrs

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch
at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

[MR DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE —
CONTD.

**Strike by Junior Engineers of
C.P.W.D.**

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Urban

development has full sympathy with the demands of the Junior engineers. If you go into the details, there was not a single occasion when the ministry of urban Development did not make every possible effort for recommending their case either to the ministry of Finance or the Pay Commission. So far as I know, the Junior Engineers have no grievance against this Ministry. Shri Ajay Biswas was saying that I did not meet their representatives. It is a fact that I had made an appointment for the 14th. Everybody knows that elections to the post of President were to be held on 13th and all of us were busy there. I gave appointment on the first opportunity that was available to me on the 14th. Their leaders to had sought appointment met me. Your statement that I did not meet them is totally incorrect. I met them at my residence. I met all the leaders of their association. Besides, the recommendations made by us to the Pay Commission

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI AJOY BISWAS (Tripura West): That was not correct. They went to your residence. But even then you did not discuss with them.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Shri D.P. Ray had sought an appointment which I granted him. I have been meeting their representatives frequently. I have never declined to meet them..... (*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Please do not interrupt. They have a genuine demand and it is to be solved.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Shri Biswas had also said that Shri Ghafoor had written a letter to the Finance Minister. Shri Ghafoor had written the letter at a time when the pay Commission report had not come. As a result the Pay Commission took cognizance of the letter. The Ministry of Urban development had recommended higher pay

[Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai]
scale to the Pay Commission. But the Pay Commission gave two scales, one higher scale and other junior scale. The higher scale was from Rs.1640 to 2900 and the Junior scale was from Rs. 1400 to Rs. 2300. We had to agree to that. When the Pay Commission recommended these two scales and sent them, we wrote to the Ministry of Finance that we should be permitted to adopt 100 per cent the higher scale just as the Ministry of Telecommunication has been permitted. But the then Finance Minister turned it down. Just now Shri Biswas was saying that the Ministry of Telecommunication has done it. They have done it for their graduate engineers and not for diploma holders.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not interfere. Let the Minister reply.

SHRI AJAY BISWAS: She is misleading the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: The Ministry of Urban Development, made all possible efforts. You are under the impression that the ratio is 75 per cent and 25 per cent. The Pay Commission had recommended 50:50 ratio. We again raised this issue and demanded that the higher scale be adopted 100 per cent. We have not only to look after the junior engineers of the Ministry of Urban development, but also think about engineers of the other departments. They have recommended 75 per cent in the higher grade and 25 per cent in the lower grade. This also provided them a lot of relief. I fully agree with you that these were the grades in the Ministry of Urban Development. there was a good deal of stagnation in the Department. It is fact that they were not getting promotion after putting in 20 to 25 years of service.

This step has been taken after consider-

ing all these aspects. This is the first time that 559 posts have been created in the Ministry of Urban Development. Higher promotion used to be given fifty per cent on examination and fifty per cent on merit basis. We have said that they should be given one time benefit of filling these 559 posts without any examination. There are two ways of promotion for Junior Engineers. Those who came through exams do not face any stagnation and within fifteen years they are promoted but those who are promoted by virtue of their seniority, have to wait for a long time. But examinations are open to everyone. On paper we have done it 25 percent but in actual practise 85 to 90 per cent people will get promotion. The total strength is 5625. Only those Junior Engineers will remain in the Junior scale whose service period is less than five years. We have accepted almost all the demands. According to Shri Biswas, we have violated the orders of the High Court or the Supreme Court, but that is not the case. Even after talking with us, the Junior engineers went to court. The Court suggested to them to enter into negotiations with us. Talks were again held on the 22nd July and the next day their petition was rejected. Even today we are ready to discuss with them and settle this matter....

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): I have talked to them but why you enacted a drama with them.....

After the court orders, one of your Joint secretaries remarked that only because of Court orders have we invited you to talks otherwise we don't want to talk with you.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: No, this is not true.

[*English*]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Don't interfere. Is she replying or are you replying? Let her finish. Madam, you can continue.

SHRI AJAY BISWAS: What is this? She is misleading.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whether you

are listening to her reply or are you making your own statement? How can you say? If she is misleading, you please give a privilege motion. You have a right for other alternative. You can give in writing. Don't simply say in misleading. What is this? You can give a notice under 115. Therefore, you wait, Let her finish. If you are not satisfied with her reply. If you are not satisfied with her reply, I gave you the rule. Why are you interfering in her reply? Madam, you can continue.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order. Order. I am not permitting others to speak except Madam.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: As far as the ministry is concerned, we have accepted all the demands. Today, I can also say that we shall accept all their genuine demands. We have done our duty and we have full sympathy with them.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS: But they are not satisfied.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Shri Jena has also conceded that a lot has been done for the junior engineers. Regarding other demands we are ready to discuss them. They are most welcome. But the problem of the junior engineers is not new. For the last one year they are resorting to 'Go Slow' and "Work to Rule". This is not good. Daily we receive a number of complaints from M.P.s regarding repair works, water and other problems. I would again request the Junior Engineers to and their agitational approach and co-operate with us.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: If you sit with them and discuss with them, the problem would be solved.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: We

havd discussed it many times.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: You should at least recommend their case and send it to the Finance Ministry.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: It is well known that we have already recommended hundred per cent senior scale and sent it to Finance Ministry, and Shri Rawat and Shri Kumarmanglam know it. But the Finance Ministry has rechanged it to 75 and 25 per cent. In spite of that, we shall try to cover more and more personnel. What else do you expect from our Ministry? We have taken steps for removal of stagnation. We are ready to help by all means but I will not tolerate indiscipline and misbehaviour.

14.18. hrs

STATEMENT RESETTING UP OF NATIONAL EQUITY FUND

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE
MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NAR-
AYAN DATT TIWARI):

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am happy to inform the House that the Government has now taken a decision to set up a National Equity Fund which would provide seed capital assistance to tiny and small entrepreneurs in the rural areas of the country as well as in urban areas with a population below 5 lakhs. The details of this Scheme have now been finalised and are being announced to-day by the Industrial Development Bank of India which will administer the Fund. To begin with the Fund will have a capital of Rs. 10 crores. Government of India is making a provision of Rs.5 crores and the IDBI will be providing a matching contribution. The assistance under the Scheme will be available not only for establishing new projects but also for the purpose of rehabilitation of small and tiny viable sick units under the given criteria. I am sure that this Scheme will contribute to strengthening the policies of the Govern-