

which has come to the notice of the hon. Member let him take it up separately. We will take necessary action.

DR. VISWANATHAM: Is there any proposal of merging the Rural Banks with the nationalised banks?

MR. SPEAKER: This question relates to the Bolangir Bank. Does the Minister want to reply?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: There is no proposal. In fact, the Finance Minister made a statement in the Lok Sabha on 6th April not accepting the proposal for merger with the nationalised banks.

MR. SPEAKER: Next Question—Q. No. 784 Shri Pyarelal Khandelwal—not present. Q. No. 785—Shri R.N. Rakesh—not present; Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit—not present. Q. No. 786.

SHRIMATISUBHASHINIAL: Sir, under Rule 48, sub-section (3) even though both the Members, who have put the question, are not present here, I would like to put this question.

MR. SPEAKER: At the end.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: At the end. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, at the end.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: It will be a bad precedent.

MR. SPEAKER: But, there is a rule.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not allowed. That is all right.

Now, Shri Jatav.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): There is no restriction under the Monopolies Act against the Minister. Sir, the Monopolies Act should be applicable against the Minister also. He is monopolising the Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: That is the luck of the new Minister.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

Regularisation of Daily Wage Employees belonging to Scheduled Castes in Customs Training Directorate

*786. **SHRI THAN SINGH JATAV:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of daily wage employees belonging to Scheduled Castes have been working as Class IV employees for more than 10 years in the Customs Training Directorate;

(b) if so, the number thereof and the reasons for not regularising them so far; and

(c) when their services are likely to be regularised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

SHRI THAN SINGH JATAV (Bayana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister the number of Class IV employees belonging to Scheduled Castes working in this Training Directorate as compared to Class IV employees belonging to the General Category? What is their percentage?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: 37 casual labourers have been working in the Training Directorate, among them 14 belong to Sched-

uled Castes and 1 belongs to Scheduled Tribe.

SHRI THAN SINGH JATAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister for how long these casual labourers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been working there and whether their services have been extended? Why these casual labourers have not been regularised so far?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the policy of the Department of Personnel, the casual labourers who have been working continuously for 240 days in the departments, having 5 days' week and 206 days continuously in the departments having six days' week, are considered for regularisation, provided there is a vacancy in the department

SHRIDAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, the number of casual labourers out of these 14 casual labourers, who have already put in two years' service and are eligible for regularisation under the policy of the Government? I want to know the reasons why the Department has not taken any action to regularise them so far and the time by which they will be regularised?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the number of casual labourers belonging to Scheduled Castes working for less than one year is one. Those who have been working for one to two years, are 7 and those working for 3 to 4 years is one. The number of casual labourers belonging to the Scheduled Castes who have been working for 3 to 4 years is one and 2 persons have been working for 5 to 10 years. Thus, 14 labourers belonging to Scheduled Castes and one belonging to Scheduled Tribe are working there

As I have stated earlier, it is the policy of the Government that when it is felt necessary to give regular employment to the labourers, the matter is taken up by the De-

partment and posts are created. No such need is being felt at present.

[*English*]

PROF. N.G. RANGA: Is it not high time that the Government should reconsider these conditions and relax these conditions so that more helpless SC people would have a chance to get themselves permanently employed?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: I welcome the suggestion of Prof. Ranga. I would also like to state that not only personally myself, but the entire National Front Government and the parties supporting the Government are completely dedicated and committed to the cause of the SC and ST people in India.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the policy of the Government is that the labourers who have been working continuously for 206 days or 240 days would be regularised. But at the same time, he has also stated that workers having 10 years service are still working as casual labourers. My submission is that under the policy of the Government, the services of those labourer who have completed 240 days should be regularised. I would like to know the reasons why the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have not been regularised even though they have been working for 10 years? When will the need for regularisation be felt?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I stated just now, whenever the Department feels necessary, it creates a post. No doubt, these labourers have been working there for some years, but it is not necessary that they have put in 206 or 240 days' continuous service. They are employed for a fixed period when a need is felt for employing casual labourers and thus, there are intermittent gaps in between. This policy is not for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but it is a General policy.

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, to bring intermittent break in the Services of those employees is denial of their rights. Why was the necessity? These people have been working for the last ten years. I would like to submit that this is a sort of injustice, a conspiracy against this category of people, it is only the denial of their rights that intermittent break is effected in the services of these employees.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shastriji, do you want to say anything in your reply.

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI. No, Sir.

SHRI CHHAVIRAM ARGAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, casual labourers are often appointed only for a period of 90 days at a stretch and after some gap, they are again appointed for another 90 days and thus they are not allowed to complete a continuous service period of 206 days or 240 days. So they continue in that way for a long time. Does the hon. Minister know about the casual labourers who had gone to the Delhi High Court that had given a verdict in their favour? On the occasion of Dr. Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary, Government have announced that they will work for the welfare of the employees of these categories. I would like to know whether National Front Government and hon. Minister propose to take steps for the confirmation of such employees of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in their respective departments? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, now that is enough. Please take your seat. First you should know the way the questions are asked here.

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the policy of the Government, casual labourers will be regularised as and when such a need arises. There will be no discrimination in this regard, I would like to make it clear on behalf of the Government.

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: Mr.

Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister through you that there are two problems in respect of the vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. First one relates to the break in service of such employees as they are not allowed to work continuously against these vacancies. Secondly, the officers resort to ad-hoc appointments and dishonestly fill up such vacancies and whenever a circular is received from the Government to clear the backlog of reserved posts, the officers ask the ad-hoc appointees to seek protection from the High Court and obtain a stay otherwise they were likely to lose their job. I would, therefore, like to know in this regard whether Government propose to take steps to fill up all the reserved vacancies to clear the entire backlog during the current year itself without any further delay, instead of wasting time in finding clear vacancies for the ad-hoc appointees.

[English]

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: I am not aware of any such thing in my Department. But, if Shrimati Subhashini Ali can let me know any specific instance, I will take it up very seriously and will ensure that justice is done. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: It is the question of such a backlog in the entire country. This backlog is only on papers. In fact such posts in each and every department of this country have been filled up on ad-hoc basis. So I would like to know whether Government is going to take steps to fill up all such vacancies to clear the entire backlog instead of finding out clear cut vacancies for them? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: She is saying that this is happening everywhere and even your Ministry is no exception.

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Even if it is so.

[English]

There is no problem. In fact, in banks, liaison officers are there, as the hon. Member may be aware. There is a SC/ST Cell in all the banks, where they take up grievances; they take up promotions and they take up recruitment cases also. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

Smuggling Across Indo-Nepal Border

*787. SHRI HARI SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether hashish, bhang, textiles and Chinese pistols are being smuggled into India from Nepal;

(b) if so, the total number of such cases

detected during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken in each case and the preventive steps taken by Government in this regard?

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Instances of smuggling of hashish and textiles from Nepal into India have been detected. However, no case of such smuggling of Bhang and Chinese pistols has been noticed.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

(b) The number of cases of smuggling of hashish and textiles detected during the last three years is given in the table below:

Year	Number of cases	
	Synthetic Fabrics	Hashish
1	2	3
1987	169	112
1988	740	53
1989	546	116

(c) Persons found involved in smuggling of synthetic textiles and hashish are liable for arrest/prosecution and detention under the Preventive Detention Law. Persons involved in smuggling of synthetic textiles are, in addition, liable for penalty in departmental adjudications.

The anti-smuggling agencies remain alert to check smuggling across the land borders including Indo-Nepal border. Close co-ordination is being maintained amongst all the agencies concerned with the prevention of smuggling. The assistance of the

State Administrations is also being taken.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: I would like to know from the hon. Minister the total value and also separately, the value of hashish and synthetic textiles seized by his department?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: I can give figures for the last three years. The total value of synthetic fabrics and hashish, separately, seized by them was to the tune of Rs. 52.65