

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 16, 1985]
Sravana 25, 1907 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Ban on recruitment in Government Offices

*347. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased
to state :

whether the ban on fresh recruitment
of Central Government employees has led
to shortage and over burdening of the exist-
ing staff in Government offices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY) : As a part
of anti-inflationary measures, Ministries/
Departments of the Government of India
were advised in January, 1984 not to fill
up existing vacancies (operational or non-
operational) except where recruitment
action had already been taken. Exemptions
have been allowed in a few selective cases
like appointment of dependants of deceased
employees on compassionate grounds and
handicapped persons, redeployment of
personnel surplus to one organisation in
another, regularisation of casual labourers
against Group 'D' vacancies, filling up of
vacancies purely by promotion etc. Propo-
sals for filling up of other types of vacan-
cies are, however, considered on the
merits of each case taking into account the
operational efficiency of the organisation.
Care is taken to ensure that the efficient
and smooth functioning of a Government

Department or organisation is not affected
due to non-filling up of vacancies.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Mr.
Speaker, Sir, the last part of my question
has not been replied to. I had asked
whether burden of work on the existing
employees had increased tremendously ?
He has not replied to it. Unemployment is
a serious problem in our country. The
Central Government have formulated a
policy to enter the 21st century. Do we
want to enter that century by increasing
the number of unemployed ? It means that
the present Government want to contain
inflation by increasing poverty. It appears
to me that Government do not think by
standing on its feet, instead they think by
standing, upside down.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sheershason is good
for the brain...(Interruptions)

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER : Every thing is
topsyturvy.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV :
Even the Government accept that the pub-
lic sector is the main institution to offer
employment. By imposing such a ban, not
only new appointments are banned but
vacancies which occur due to retirement of
many employees are also not filled up. I
want to know from the hon. Minister how
many employees have retired since this ban
was imposed; and whether appointments
have been made on the resultant vacancies?
The Railways and the P & T Department
are the worst sufferers of this ban and, I
think, with the imposition of ban on recruit-
ment, the work load on all the Depart-
ments has increased tremendously. The
only thing I want to know from you is that
whether complaints have been received from
different departments ever since this ban
on recruitment was imposed that it was
telling upon the efficiency of the employees

and the workload on the workers had increased. Besides, I also want to know how many employees have retired since this ban was imposed ?

MR. SPEAKER : You have started delivering a lecture.....

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : All right, you answer the question which I have asked.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : Sir, it appears that the hon. Member has put the question upside down and I shall try to make it straight.

MR. SPEAKER : Does it appear or...

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I want to tell the hon. Member that the word 'ban' is somewhat confusing, because it is not a total ban; the only thing is that the permission for recruitment is now given at the cabinet level on the basis of merit, and thus, only the level of the authority giving the permission has been raised. Now such a decision is taken at the cabinet level and all deserving proposals are accorded approval. Therefore, it is not that this ban has resulted in total stoppage of work. Only the level of permission has been raised. So far as the number of employers who have retired is concerned, I do not have the figures at the moment; these can be presented later on. As regards the third supplementary whether it has affected the efficiency or whether workload has increased, I would say that since permission is granted in justified cases, I do not think; it has resulted in fall in efficiency or increase in workload.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : I am not satisfied with your reply. It is true that examinations have been conducted in many Departments like the Railways, but their results have not been declared due to this ban. I would, therefore like to know whether Government would consider lifting this ban in view of the difficult condition it has caused leading to increase in unemployment ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I do not have information about

the examination in the Railways and orders to the effect that permission may be given at the Cabinet level have been issued. There is no proposal at the moment to change it.

[English]

SHRI SUKH RAM : Sir, will the hon. Finance Minister kindly consider that unless a post is abolished, it is to be presumed that there is need to continue it. If it is needed and not filled in, either the work will suffer or some other employee is over-burdened. So, in view of this, will it not be preferable to reduce unnecessary Government work which will eliminate the need for posts as are needed.

Discontinuation of the TV and Radio licences has resulted in reduction of hundreds of posts of clerks while providing so much convenience to the public. Will the Government consider some more measures of this kind, so that economy is achieved by eliminating the need for staff attending to such work ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : If income tax is abolished, there will be no need for tax collectors;

PROF. N. G. RANGA : For once there is a constructive suggestion for economy, Sir !

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Sir, we are making a detailed exercise for effecting economies in Government spending wherever they are necessary.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Sir, the Minister said that it is not banned. But then cabinetisation of recruitment has really created adverse effect on the unemployed youth of our country and taking this as the plea or reason the private sectors are also not making new recruitment and they are going for computerisation. That is an anti-labour move and not necessary at all. In view of this, whether you will consider to lift the ban ? Those who have lost one or a half valuable years and could not apply for the job, may be over-aged now. Whether you will relax their age limit to that extent as they are losing by this ban ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : There is no total cabinetisation. In cases of compassionate grounds where there is a need to give employment to the son or wife or daughter of the deceased or to give employment to a handicapped person or where there is a need for deployment of surplus staff or regularisation of casual labour or purely by promotion it has to be filled or there is a need of filling up by transfer or by deputation, there is no cabinetisation. It is done at the local level. As such I do not call it a ban. On merits we do consider.

About the private sector and computerisation I do not know how do they arise here.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is nothing much in it. We need industrialisation to create more job opportunities.

Proposal to reduce excise duty on partially oriented yarn

*349. **SHRI SOM NATH RATH :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to reduce excise duty on partially oriented yarn (POY) with a view to including competition among the polyester manufacturers to produce yarns near international prices;

(b) whether Government are also considering to waive the anti-dumping duty on polyester filament yarn (PFY) and partially oriented yarn (POY); and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Reduction of excise duty on polyester filament yarn (including partially oriented yarn) is relevant for reduction of

the selling price of fabrics and not reduction of the cost of production which depends on a number of factors like economy of scale, capital and raw material costs, energy costs etc. Therefore, the question of inducing indigenous manufacturers to produce polyester filament yarn at or near international prices through reduction of excise duty at filament yarn stage does not arise.

(b) and (c) "Anti dumping duty" is leviable by virtue of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975. This Section, however, is yet to come into force, and as such, the question of removing the "anti dumping duty" on polyester filament yarn (including partially oriented yarn) does not arise. However, if the reference is to import duty in general on polyester filament yarn, the question of fiscal relief in respect of the textile industry is under examination, details of which it is not possible to disclose at this stage.

SHRI SOM NATH RATH : I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the price of yarn in the international market and what is the price of indigenous yarn ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : The international price of POY is about Rs. 20 to 25 per kg and in India it would cost without any excise duty around Rs.80 per kg.

SHRI SOM NATH RATH : My question is : whether the excise duty would be waived. From the answer of the hon. Minister, it is clear that without excise duty the indigenous yarn costs much higher than the international price of imported yarn. As such, will the Minister take steps to see that the indigenous yarn price is at least on par with the international prices ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : The landed cost is about Rs. 175 per kg as against the indigenous selling price of Rs. 182-184. So it is a very small difference.

SHRI SOM NATH RATH : That is the reason why I ask the excise duty should