

**Inspectors of Post Offices**

1472. **Shri Daljit Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Inspectors of Post Offices in Punjab;
- (b) the number of their offices located at present in private houses; and
- (c) the amount of monthly rent paid?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (**Shri Raj Bahadur**): (a) Forty-four.

(b) Thirty-four have their offices in their own residences and are given a house rent allowance of Rs. 5 each per month for this purpose.

(c) Since they are privately rented by the Inspectors of Post Offices, the Government have no information on the subject.

**Labour Co-operative Societies in Punjab**

1473. **Shri Daljit Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the amount allotted by Central Government for assistance to Labour Co-operative Societies in Punjab during 1957-58?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (**Shri A. P. Jain**): No separate allocation is made by the Central Government for assistance to Labour Co-operative Societies in Punjab or in any other State and the amounts allocated to State Governments duly include the requirements of Co-operative Societies of Labourers and Industrial Workers. An amount of Rs. 53,443 (Rs. 22,270 as loan and Rs. 31,173 as subsidy) was, however, disbursed to the Ludhiana Industrial Workers Co-operative Society Ltd., Ludhiana in Punjab during 1957-58, as a part payment in respect of their project for the construction of 132 two-roomed tenements sanctioned in 1955-56, under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme.

12 hrs.

**MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT  
NON-DECLARATION OF MARCH 20TH AS  
HOLIDAY**

**Mr. Speaker:** I have received notice of an Adjournment Motion from some hon. Members regarding the decision of the Delhi Administration not to declare March 20th as a paid holiday. I wonder if there can be an Adjournment Motion at all on the ground that a particular day has not been declared a holiday. Maybe there are elections.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur):** I submit that March 20 is not a holiday for industries. March 20 is a holiday in the Delhi Municipal Corporation. The election day will not be an additional paid holiday for the employees of all industrial and commercial establishments. So, my submission is that the offices have been closed. It is a holiday for the office employees and especially for the Secretariat.

Now, in Delhi itself, about 50,000 industrial employees are employed in various industries both in the private and the public sector, including the defence industries, the Central Ordnance Factory and in the M.E.S. They are all industrial employees. They have been asked to go and vote and have been given two or three hours' leave for the purpose. May I submit that about 10,000 people or 20,000 people have to come from Shahdara and even from other distant places? How is it possible for them to go and vote? It means really that the ruling party does not want the workers to vote freely. They will take simply trucks and carry the voters.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I want a reply from the hon. Minister. Let there be proper democratic functioning in the Delhi elections. Otherwise, it will be only restricted to the truck-owners and bus-owners who will carry the voters to the polls.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Does the hon. Member mean that everybody will vote only for the ruling party?

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Particularly for the Congress Party.

**Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur):** This is a vote-catching device.

**Shri Tangamani (Madurai):** This announcement was made yesterday, and the election is going to take place tomorrow. I understand that the Central Government employees are granted but the staff of the Lok Sabha are not granted a holiday.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am not going to give.

**Shri Tangamani:** I am told there was a practice in the past, during the year 1953 or 1954, that the Lok Sabha used to sit from 8-15 a.m. to 1-15 p.m. Can we not do likewise tomorrow, thus enabling the staff to go and cast their votes in the afternoon? As the election is taking place in the metropolis itself, and as Delhi is a centrally administered area, I consider it very necessary that the day may be declared a holiday.

**Mr. Speaker:** But how does an Adjournment Motion relate to it?

**The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant):** I think the Adjournment Motion, though no specific mention has been made of the employees in the Lok Sabha, also relates to them. That is the last thing there, I think.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** The industrial employees.

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** I say as I heard from the other side. Well, I would not attribute any motives as to whether any arrangement has been made with a view to keep out the workmen from casting their votes for any particular party or whether this motion has been tabled with any ulterior motive to secure their sympathy. That is beside the point.

But the real fact is this. Though offices are going to be closed, the offices have to work all the day. About 14,000 employees of Government have now been employed or have been requisitioned for the election purposes. They will be busy not only for the normal time, but all day long. They will have to work for extra hours.

So far as labourers are concerned, we have already asked the industrial undertakings that are under the Government to give to the workmen reasonable facilities to enable them to cast their vote, and they will certainly get payment, even for the time that they have to take to go and record their votes.

So far as industrial undertakings under private management are concerned, the Labour Ministry has appealed to them that they might give them reasonable facilities for these purposes. I do not see what more we can do. Perhaps all facts were known to the hon. Members. They have said definitely that the Government has said that they will not pay for the time that may be taken by the people, in recording their votes, in Government undertakings. Well, that statement does not seem to be correct.

As to the rest, we have appealed to the industrial undertakings under private management. And, as I have said, that is what we did even on the Republic Day. We only appealed to them, as we cannot notify an industrial holiday as and when we like to do so. So, I think we know the difficulty in the workmen recording their votes.

In any case, it will be hardly any occasion for any Adjournment Motion like this. If every man has a vote, even if he is not paid the salary, he would sacrifice the day's salary in order to have the benefit of recording his vote and supporting the candidate for whom he has his sympathies. So, even then, it would not have been

[Pandit G. B. Pant]

any breach of the law. But I think the arrangements that we have made are more than adequate for enabling the people to record their votes.

Shri S. M. Banerjee rose—

Mr. Speaker: There must be an end to this. The hon. Members must have thought in advance of any objections that may be possibly anticipated and then speak. I gave the hon. Member an opportunity. I have heard both sides. It is not a matter of serious public importance. As a matter of fact, the hon. Minister has said that so far as State industrial undertakings are concerned, all facilities should be given to the workers, and that the time which is taken for going to and from the polling station and recording their votes will be treated as part of the working day. Full salary will be given to them for that period.

The hon. Members who have tabled this Adjournment Motion evidently want that irrespective of the time taken for going and voting, it should be declared a holiday. Some people may be close to the polling station; some people may be far away. But whosoever he might be, irrespective of the distance of the polling station, the hon. Members evidently want to say, "Come along, declare it a holiday" and then censure the Government for not doing so. I am not in favour of it.

As a matter of fact, elections are a normal feature of democracy. There may be a by-election; there may be a municipal election; there is a *panchayat* election; and an Assembly election and a Parliament election, not to speak of various other elections. Therefore, in addition to the normal holidays, if we close for this election also, it may mean your going back to your respective constituencies. I am not in favour of this Adjournment Motion.

Shri Yagnik (Ahmedabad) rose—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Members

leader of a group, he could have risen before the hon. Minister replied. I am now on my legs.

So far as Parliament is concerned, we come from various parts of this country. 500 Members are meeting here and discharging their business. I have absolutely no objection to allow any member of the staff to a reasonable time to go and record the votes. I shall treat that time as part of the working hours. They will get full salary for that time. There would not be any withholding of salary for that period.

I do not give my consent to this Adjournment Motion.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Only one point, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: No more point.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

##### AMENDMENTS TO MEDICINAL AND TOILET PREPARATIONS (EXCISE DUTIES) RULES

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955, a copy of each of the following Notifications, making certain further amendments to the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Rules, 1956:

- (1) S.R.O. No. 4031 dated the 21st December, 1957.
- (2) S.R.O. No. 4100 dated the 28th December, 1957.
- (3) S.R.O. No. 4101 dated the 28th December, 1957.
- (4) S.R.O. No. 97 dated the 11th January, 1958.
- (5) S.R.O. No. 98 dated the 11th January, 1958.
- (6) S.R.O. No. 365 dated the 1st February, 1958.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-