

Certainly I can discuss with the hon. Member and see whether his ideas would work.

SHRI RAJA KULKARNI: Since the medical benefits are related to the period of contribution, it affects them because of the time taken for deduction at source and depositing it at the ESIC. How much time-gap is involved in this? Are not the workers likely to lose because this period would be going out of their benefit period?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: That is why we have provided a simplified way in which money is to be collected on an average basis; therefore the time lag also would be reduced.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: While the government are trying various methods including some pilot schemes in Delhi, may I know whether the arrears due from different companies are mounting up, year after year? Have any positive steps been taken in this regard while making the procedures simple in respect of collection, so that employees who contribute may not suffer on account of the fault of the employers?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: The Act had been amended and penal provisions had been introduced. We have also increased the coverage. Necessary steps are being taken. In spite of that some sick mills which have been taken over have to pay. These are some of the problems that are being looked into.

Extra Department Employees

*355. **SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether Government are considering to make extra departmental employees into regular service?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA):

There is no such proposal under consideration for the wholesale absorption of Extra Departmental employees into regular service. Extra Departmental employees are, however, given certain preference for absorption as regular employees provided they fulfill certain conditions.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: So far as the Extra Departmental Employees of the Communication Ministry are concerned, there are about 3 lakh employees. This is about 50 per cent of their total employees. I understand that these employees are getting a minimum salary of Rs. 80 p.m. and a maximum salary of Rs. 100 p.m. which goes up to Rs. 150. I may also point out that these people are working for more than 8 hours a day. In this connection, I would like to mention that Madan Kishore Committee's Report was out in 1971. Of course, it is not favourable to the employees, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Ministry has taken into consideration the number of working hours of these people while considering the recommendations of that Report. These employees are living in a very bad condition. Whether the Ministry have accepted any proposal from the employees while considering the recommendations of that Report?

SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA: First I would like to make it clear that these employees are not regular employees of the Government. The Hon'ble Member has in the beginning mentioned that they are Extra Departmental Employees.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: But you are exploiting them.

SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA: Whether we are exploiting them or they are exploiting us, that is a different question to be considered. Secondly, hon. Member has mentioned that the number of employees is about 3.0 lakhs. It is not correct. It is two lakhs. Thirdly, the hon. Member has mentioned that the employees work for about 8 hours a day. It is not a fact. They work for about 3 to 4 hours a day.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: No, Sir, I can prove it.

SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA: The maximum pay they receive is also upto Rs. 155.0 p.m. The report of the Madan Kishore Committee has been considered by the Government and as proposed by that Committee, many facilities are being given to these employees.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I can tell the Minister that they are working very hard and they are being exploited by the Inspectors. They have to do all the household duties of the Inspector. I know three or four cases. They are in a very pathetic condition. Moreover, Madan Kishore Committee has recommended gratuity to these employees. That has not been given to them. Only recently Rs. 20.0 has been added and it comes to Rs. 150.0 now. Do you think that anybody can live in these hard days with a salary of Rs. 150.0 per month? What is preventing you from giving the minimum pay-scale which has been fixed under the rules?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): What is preventing us from giving the minimum pay-scale is a different point because it is a money question. Secondly, the hon. Member has missed the main point of the Extra Departmental Employees. The first and the foremost condition is that he should be employed elsewhere. Then only he can be employed as E.D.E. It is specifically provided. It is necessary that they should have been in employment and that they should have other sources of income. That is the primary condition. They cannot be employed here unless they have other sources of income. But they are registering themselves under a false pretence by saying that they have other work. They get into the work and then they ask for more. So far as the time is concerned, I would say that they are not regular post-offices or branch post-offices having more than five hours work. If they have more

than five hours work, we make them a sub-post offices with a regular Post Master and a regular messenger.

श्री नरसिंह नारायण शर्मा : क्या मन्त्र जी बतायेंगे कि एक्सट्रा डिपार्टमेंटल एम्प्लाइज, जिनके बारे में मदन किलोर कमेटी ने कुछ सहुलियतें देने के लिए रिक्मेंडेशन की है उस पर सरकार ने विचार किया है, और गांवों में यह जो एक्सट्रा डिपार्टमेंटल एजेन्ट्स काम कर रहे हैं उनको सहुलियतें दे रहे हैं और जो आपके सब-पोस्ट आफिसोज खोले जाते हैं उनमें उनको प्राथमिकता देते हैं।

श्री शंकर दयाल शर्मा: उनको कुछ कंसेशन दिये गए हैं जैसे एज लिमिट में 40 वर्ष तक की उम्र तक कांफिटीशन में बैठ सकते हैं, एजुकेशनल स्टैंडर्ड्स भी कम किये गए हैं लेकिन बाकी बातों में दूसरों के साथ बराबर होना होता है।

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: In view of the large number of EDEs and his drive to open more post offices in rural areas, would he consider the improvement of the procedure for the employment of these EDEs, i.e., regularising their services? At present they can only be recruited as postmen provided they have put in 3 years service already. In view of the fact that many matriculates and other qualified people are working as EDBOs and EDSOs, would it be possible for him to assure the House that such among them as are matriculates would be given some relaxation in the service period and they would be recruited as clerks or to other higher posts, depending on their qualifications and experience?

DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA: We are usually opening more branch post offices. As the hon. member

knows, after a simple examination, when there are posts of postmen, they are appointed. So far as post masters, sub-post masters and branch post masters are concerned, as I said, the condition is that they should have other sources of income. So, we do not expect them to go in for it. But if they want, age concession is given to them and they have to appear at the examination.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: The working condition of EDEs is worse than the present Ministers! May I know whether it is a fact that whereas the P & T employees got 8 instalments of DA, the EDEs have not been given any DA although promises were given both at the JCM meeting and outside?

DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA: The payment of DA is not in their conditions of service. The question of pay and allowances does not arise. Only every two years we review it. Recently they have been given an increase in their salary. They are not entitled to DA whatsoever.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: What is the increase given to them?

Statement

(a) The total production in the mines of NMDC during the last three years and the current year was as under:—

(In Lakh Tonnes)

Mines	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76 (Upto Feb. '76)
1. Bailadila Mines (Department No. 14)	37.36	43.33	38.66	44.36
2. Kiribird Mines	5.31	6.98	11.82	14.84

(b) No, Sir. The supply of iron ore to the Steel Plants was adequate during the period.

(c) Desirable.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: In reply to part (b), the Minister has stated that the supply of iron ore to the steel plants was adequate during this period. May I know what was the original programme of supply of iron ore to the public sector steel plants at Bhilai, Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro during the last three years which I have men-

DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA: The whole idea is, they are not regular employees of the government. They are part-time employees. The basic condition is, they should have other sources of income.

Iron Ore Production in NMDC Mines

*356. **SHRI ARJUN SETHI:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of iron ore in tonnage year-wise in NMDC mines for the last three years;

(b) whether the supply of iron ore to the steel plants was not adequate during the period; and

(c) if so, the specific steps taken to improve the production of iron ore?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

tioned in my main question and what was the actual receipt of iron ore by these steel plants during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): The question was whether the steel plants were getting necessary iron ore or not. We have said that