

Minister has come out with a statement, and he is reported to have said,—in the press that Mr. Bhutto is equating the POWs in our custody with those 4,00,000 Bengalis who are stranded in West Pakistan, may I know whether our Government know or actually have found out what facilities are being given to those people who are being held in custody there, and whether they are reciprocating the obligations under the Geneva Convention which we are observing here ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : We have tried to find this out from the International Committee of the Red Cross, and so far we have had no adverse report as far as this matter is concerned. But I must caution the House that if we go by our experience of the 1965 war, at that time, very shabby treatment was meted out to our prisoners of war in Pakistan whereas we had treated them according to the Geneva Convention. This time, we are making sure of it again and again, and our only source through which we can ensure that our few prisoners of war who are in Pakistani hands are given proper treatment is the International Committee of the Red Cross, and we are doing that.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : **

**Production of Armour Recovery
Vehicles and Self-Propelled
Guns at Avadi Factory**

*709. **SHRI P. M. MEHTA :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Heavy Vehicle Factory at Avadi proposes to meet the Army's requirements of Armour Recovery Vehicles and Selfpropelled Guns; and

(b) if so, the targets fixed for annual production ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE
(DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA
CHARAN SHUKLA) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No hard and fast targets can be fixed in such matters.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : Is it a fact that during the recent war with Pakistan, the Heavy Vehicles Factory boosted its production more than twice the normal ? Is it also true that several industries have come forward with offers to meet the demands of the factory ? If so, what are their names and will the requirements of the factory be fully met ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : During the recent aggression by Pakistan, this factory went all out and produced according to schedule. Whatever spare parts were needed by the armoured brigades or armoured corps were provided by the factory. We are taking help from various private parties for various non-critical and sub-assembly items utilised in the manufacture of the Vijayanta Tank. I can mention some names, Wheels India, Dunlop and many others. I may also inform the House that there is an augmentation project which is going to augment production in this factory in coming years.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : I asked whether the production was doubled.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : It was not doubled, but it went on according to schedule and met the target.

SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA : Are the foreign components in the Heavy Vehicles Factory at Avadi much more than the foreign components used by other private sector firms manufacturing vehicles ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : No private sector firm is producing tanks in the country; only Avadi is doing it.

SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA : Heavy vehicles.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : It is the other name for tanks.

**Expunged by the Chair.

I may inform the house that the indigenous components of Vijayanta are more than 65 per cent now; within a year or so, they will be 85 per cent.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Since the hon. Minister is aware that there a lockout in this factory and since a statement was made by him the other day that a meeting is being convened to resolve the dispute...

MR. SPEAKER : How does lockout come here ?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : How does production take place if there is lockout ?

MR. SPEAKER : He may table a separate question.

Channel of Promotion for Stenographers

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the post of Stenographer during the British Regime was considered to be much higher than of Assistant;

(b) whether Government propose giving some special consideration to the posts of Stenographers who have no channel of promotion which the Assistants enjoy to the maximum extent; and

(c) if so, the outlines of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service at present consists of the following four grades :

Grade III	Rs. 130-280.
Grade II	Rs. 210-530.
Grade I	Rs. 350(400)-770.
Selection Grade	Rs. 350(500)-900.

All posts in Grade I and Selection Grade of the Service are filled by promotion from the lower grade on the basis of merit with due regard to seniority. Posts in Grade II are filled partly by direct recruitment through U. P. S. C. competitive examination (62 $\frac{1}{2}$ %) and partly by promotion of Grade III Stenographers (25%) on the basis of seniority subject to the rejection of the unfit and the remaining (12 $\frac{1}{2}$ %) through limited departmental competitive examinations.

The Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service was reorganised with effect from 1.8.1969 as a result of which the promotion prospects of members of the Service have improved by upward revision of Grade I scale, increasing the number of Grade I posts and introduction of a Selection Grade. The officers in Selection Grade of this Service are eligible for promotion to the Grade of Under Secretary along with Section Officers of the Central Sectt. Service. Assistants are eligible for promotion to the post of Section Officer in the scale of Rs. 350-900 which corresponds to the scale of Selection Grade of the Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service. Ministries have been advised to consider members of the Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service for comparable ex-cadre posts along with Central Secretariat Service/Central Secretariat Clerical Service officers.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will this question be ultimately decided by Government ? Are Government going to take some sort of uniform decision regarding the stenographers and their future ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : This matter also is before the third Pay Commission.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Since there is disparity between stenographer and stenographer working in the various departments, I would like to know whether this disparity will be removed before the Pay Commission submits its report. (*Interruption*) This has nothing to do with the Pay Commission, Sir. I would only request that the question of granting Pension to MPs should also be referred to the Pay Commission; not to Mr. Pannalal Barupal.