

new pay scales before the implementation of the Third Pay Commission's recommendations. So, these anomalies will be rectified at that time.

श्री हुक्म चन्द कछवाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि काफी बोर्ड के जो कर्मचारी हैं क्या सरकार ने उनका न्यूनतम वेतन कम से कम वेतन निर्धारित करने की कोई पालिसी बनाई है और जीवन आवश्यक वेतन और इन दोनों में कितना अन्तर रखने का सरकार का विचार है ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: The point that has been raised is not regarding the minimum wage. They have been given fair wages. The complaint that is under discussion is regarding comparable inequalities with other governmental agencies. We have assured them that we will rectify them soon.

श्री हुक्म चन्द कछवाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया है। मैंने पूछा था कि न्यूनतम वेतन जो आवश्यक है जीवन में वह काफी बोर्ड के कर्मचारियों के लिये सरकार ने कितना निर्धारित किया है ? जीवन आवश्यक वेतन और उनके वेतन में कितना अन्तर सरकार ने रखा है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मिनिमम लिविंग वेज अगर हो तो बतलाइये।

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: We have not fixed any minimum living wage. We give them a fair wage.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: It is a well-known fact that the employees of boards like Tea Board or Coffee Board do not come within the terms of reference of the Third Pay Commission. After the publication of the report of the Pay Commission, will there be any negotiated settlement between the Boards and their employees for the implementation of the Pay Commission scales or it will be done *suo motu*?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: We do not propose to implement it *suo motu*. There will certainly be negotiations

between the elected representatives and the Board.

Nationalisation of Foreign owned Plantations

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*262. SHRI B. K. DASCHOW-DHURY:

SHRI VARKEY GEORGE;

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken for nationalising, without compensation, foreign-owned tea, rubber and cardamom plantations in Kerala and other parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) and (b). At present there is no proposal to take over foreign-owned plantations in India. However, a draft ordinance from the Kerala Government in this regard is still under examination.

SHRI B. K. DAS CHOWDHURY: Government have made a very simple statement that there is no scheme for nationalisation of the foreign-owned plantations. In view of the fact that these plantation owners, particularly the foreign-owned plantation owners, have looted us millions of pounds sterling as profit from this country and in view also of the fact that not even a fringe of these profits have been re-invested in these plantations, may I know what are the hindrances in the way of government nationalising this industry? Secondly, have government taken any statistics which will show that the foreign-owned plantations are not modernising their industry which will provide more and more employment potential in these industries?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: So far as the takeover of these plantations is concerned, we have decided it as a policy.

not to take over them. It is a fact that foreign plantations, whether in rubber, tea or coffee, have repatriated their profits and not invested them here. So far as modernisation is concerned, not only the foreign plantations but even the Indian plantations are not modernising their plants or taking advantage of some of our schemes. Recently, we have drawn up a new scheme for modernising plants in both tea, rubber and coffee. Funds for these schemes will be available from the Government at reasonable rate of interest. I hope they will take advantage of it.

SHRI B. K. DAS CHOWDHURY: What are the salient features of the draft ordinance sent by the Kerala Government? Are the Government going to accept this ordinance as it is?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Since it is under consideration, I would not like to disclose or discuss the salient features at this stage. We are at the stage of negotiations with the State Government and there are political implications in it. So, it will not be advisable to give the details of the ordinance.

SHRI B. K. DAS CHOWDHURY: He need not give the details. What are the salient features?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: The salient feature is that they want to take over the plantations.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN: In view of the answer given that since it is a policy matter the Government will take some time to decide about the Kerala Ordinance, is it not a fact that the draft Ordinance has been sent to the Government more than a year ago? In the last session of Parliament and during this session also, the Government gives the same answer that it is under consideration. I would like to ask the Minister how long they are going to consider it and whether they are going to take a decision at all on this matter. Is it also not a

fact that they have received an expert report from the Kerala Government regarding the feasibility of nationalisation?

MR SPEAKER: A supplementary question should not give information. You must know the rules. It should be to get information.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: It is a fact that we got the draft Ordinance, not a year ago, but about 9 months back from the Kerala Government. We are in discussion with the Kerala Government. I am not sure by what time we will be able to finalise it. This is not only an administrative decision. It involves some political implications. It is not that a decision can be taken overnight or in a day or two. It will take some time.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Considering the fact that the production has gone down and the fragmentation is at a rapid speed in Kerala State, will the Government expedite the law to take over not only the foreign-owned plantations but all the plantations in Kerala?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: The question is about the take-over of foreign owned plantations. Now he wants us to take over all the plantations. So far as the foreign-owned plantations are concerned, I have said that it is still under consideration. About Indian plantations that proposal is not before us.

SHRI R. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal from the Kerala Government to nationalise the entire plantation industry either by giving compensation or without giving compensation?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: We have no such proposal before us.

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA: Is it a fact that certain international agencies like the World Bank are opposed to

nationalisation of foreign-owned plantations and, if that is so, is that the reason why the Government is taking so long to come to a decision?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: No, Sir; we have got no pressure. We are ourselves thinking about it as to what will be the implications of it.

Upgrading of the Posts of Head Clerks and Inspectors of Central Excise and Customs Department

*263. **SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to upgrade the posts of Head Clerks and Inspectors of Central Excise and Customs Department; and

(b) if so, when they will be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) The posts of Head Clerks in the Customs Department were abolished in June 1968 when the non-gazetted ministerial supervisory cadres in that Department were re-organised into two grades only, namely, Office Superintendents and Deputy Office Superintendents. The Government have not decided to upgrade the posts of Head Clerks in the Central Excise Department. There is no proposal before Government to upgrade the posts of Inspectors of Central Excise and Customs Departments.

(b) Question does not arise in view of the answer to part (a) of the question.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : आफिस सुपरिन्टन्ड का प्रमोशन एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव आफिसर की जगह पर होता है। अगर यह बात सही है तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कस्टम्स और एक्साइज डिपार्टमेंट में काम करने वाले आफिस सुपरिन्टन्डेंट, एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव आफिसर्स और डिप्टी आफिस सुपरिन्टन्डेंट की अलग अलग कितनी जगह हैं।

SHRI K. R. GANESH: At present the sanctioned strength of Office Superintendents is 67; Deputy Office Superintendents 612. He has asked about Administrative Officers. The sanctioned strength of the entire cadre belonging to gazetted officers, including the Chief Accounts Officer, Assistant Chief Accounts Officer, Administrative Officer, Examiner of Accounts, is 133.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव आफिसर की संख्या 133 है और आफिस सुपरिन्टन्डेंट्स की संख्या 67 है। इन का प्रमोशन एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव आफिसर्स की जगह पर होता है मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस बीच में आप ने कितने लोगों को प्रमोशन दिया है।

दूसरी बात यह है कि नान-गजेटेड म्प्लायीज के प्रमोशन के सम्बन्ध में सुप्रीम को के किसी जजमेंट के कारण कुछ कठिनाई हो गई है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस फमले की रीजनी में क्या आप कोई रिवाइज्ड सीनिआरिटी लिस्ट बनाना चाहते हैं जिस में यह सब लोग शामिल हों। मंत्री महोदय ने यह भी कहा कि वह इम्पेक्टर्स की पोस्ट को अपग्रेड नहीं करना चाहते हैं। उन्होंने इस के लिए कोई रीजन नहीं दिया वह कृपा कर के इस का रीजन बतालायें।

SHRI K. R. GANESH: Actually I have not been able to understand what the hon. Member wants to know. He is a very knowledgeable Member, but for the first time he has not been briefed properly. I have come with all the questions that the Organisation has been asking.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य पूछ रहे हैं कि 133 जगहों में से कितनी जगहों पर आप ने लोगों को अपग्रेड किया है। आप किसी तरह से जवाब बना कर दे दीजिये।