

ment service, not the retired person, is entitled. So far as other relations are concerned, every case is considered on merits.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Threat to the Jobs of Employees of Accountant General's Office, Madras

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S. Q. No. 1 SHRI K. BALADHANDAYUTHAM :

SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the State Government of Tamil Nadu propose to take over the accounting Section of the Accountant General's Office in Madras resulting in threat to the jobs of nearly 2,500 employees ; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to avert the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) No Sir. They have decided to establish a Data Processing Centre to facilitate better budgetary control.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

SHRI K. BALADHANDAYUTHAM : I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of that two orders have been issued by the State Government—O.M. 1205/70/Funds 71/4 dated 17th January, 1972 which say that they have decided to take over the keeping of accounts of the State Government employees with regard to GPF, and another, order G.O. 1125 dated 30th July, 1971 by which they have introduced computers on taking over the data processing centre, in connection with which they have said that the sending of vouchers to the Accountant-General's office may be continued for sometime and after trying this process, if the new system has proved itself, they want to stop sending the vouchers to the Accountant-General's office. These are the two orders.

Under article 150 of the Constitution it is quite clear that the forms of maintaining,

compiling and processing of accounts have to be drawn up with the assent of the Comptroller and Auditor-General and should be done in consultation with the President. So, only with the assent of the President they can make any change in those forms. In view of this, have the State Government got the permission of the Central Government for changing the data processing centre or changing the way of keeping accounts of the GPF and transferring it from the Accountant General's office to others ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : I shall read out a small letter which the Tamil Nadu State Government had written. They say that the Tamil Nadu State Government are not proposing to take over the accounting section of the AG's office. The Government of Tamil Nadu are having a project to improve pre-budgeting methods and to compare departmental actuals with budget estimates and to establish better appropriation control and financial discipline. Budget is the responsibility of the State Government and has never been done by the Accountant General. This work is being undertaken by the Government budget data centre which has been set up following the recommendation of the Hyderabad Staff College. Government have assured the Accountant General that there is no intention to take over the accounting work of the AG in so far as compilation of accounts from the treasuries is concerned.

This is the factual position stated by the Tamil Nadu.

SHRI K. BALADHANDAYATHAM : They say that the vouchers may be sent to the Accountant General's office for the time being and that when data processing centre proves successful, they may discontinue sending the vouchers to the accountant General. If he wants, I can read out order. The order is so clear. So, can the Central Government or the Finance Minister give a categorical assurance that there will not be displacement of persons, and that there will be job security. Not only job security, they have to guarantee that the job potentiality, the promotion avenues, all these things will be guaranteed for the employees of the Accountant General's office in the face of this insidious threat coming from the State Government who are introducing computers by the back door and are also stage by stage taking over compilation and

the keeping of accounts. What has he to say regarding the provident fund accounts which they have taken over? How is it consistent with article 150?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: As far as the first part of the question is concerned, you would agree with me that it is a very hypothetical question. When a situation like that arises, the Central Government will take appropriate measures to see what should be done. Now the situation has not arisen. It concerns the State Government, and it is impossible for me to express any opinion on a hypothetical question that may arise.

As far as the question of maintenance of provident fund accounts is concerned, the Tamil Nadu Government are also considering the introduction of a system of maintaining passbooks in respect of the GPF accounts of their employees. Already, a passbook system is in existence in that Government in respect of Gazetted Officers. This system is, however, not intended to replace the maintenance of GPF accounts by the Accountant General, but only intended to provide a concurrent document to facilitate the posting of missing credits. As the Tamil Nadu Government felt that the GPF accounts were not being correctly maintained, it felt that the passbook system should be extended to all Government servants or, as an alternative, it felt that the nationalised banks could be entrusted with the task of collecting the GPF money of the employees and maintaining their accounts. In this connection, the Accountant General, Madras, wrote to the State Government expressing preference for the introduction of the passbook system. The A. G. also suggested that it might be advisable to have a meeting of all heads of departments so as to straighten out the bottleneck in the maintenance of GPF accounts. This meeting does not appear to have taken place. This is the present position.

SHRI K. BALADHANDAYUTHAM: Is it not a duplication on the part of the State Government to have this data processing centre and maintain these provident fund accounts themselves?

MR. SPEAKER: You are asking for an opinion on some hypothetical question which is not admissible as a supplementary, but in spite of that the Minister was allowed to

explain. I do not think it should be allowed to go further.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I should like to know whether the hon. Minister has ascertained the views of the Comptroller and Auditor-General on this issue and whether he has satisfied himself that the employment potential will not be reduced?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: At the moment, as stated by the Tamil Nadu Government, they have no intention of taking over the work that is being done in the AG's office, and so, the question does not arise.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Have the views of the Comptroller and Auditor-General been ascertained or not?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: They have been ascertained.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: In that case, he should take the House into confidence. What are his views? Does he agree with the assessment that the employment potential will be reduced?

अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप मेरे साथ न्याय करें।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : न्याय की खातिर ही तो आप से कह दिया।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अगर आप मुझको न्याय की खातिर बिठला रहे हैं तो मैं बैठ जाऊंगा। लेकिन पहले तो मंत्री महोदय ने इस सवाल का जवाब नहीं दिया कि कंट्रोलर एंड आडिटर जनरल से पूछा गया है या नहीं, फिर कहा कि पूछा गया है। तब स्वाभाविक रूप से जिज्ञासा है कि कंट्रोलर एंड आडिटर जनरल की राय क्या है। बड़ा मासूम-सा सवाल है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इतना मालूम नहीं है।

श्री आर० बी० बड़े : श्री वाजपेयी का सवाल बड़े महत्व का है। उसका जवाब दिया जाना चाहिये।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैंने उसकी इजाजत नहीं दी है ।

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: The agitation of the employees of the A. G.'s office is a very interesting one. I want to know whether the minister is aware of the delay and scandal in keeping the GPF account to and of fact that the unposted entries in GPF accounts run to many crores of rupees and hence the State Government's action? What action has the A G taken against the employees, because the agitators sign the attendance register, go to the meeting, the loud-speaker is provided and the electric supply is provided from the office and it is being instigated by some of the self-styled leaders who are communists?

MR. SPEAKER : How is your question relevant ?

SHRI G VISWANATHAN : The question is about the agitation of the employees of the AG's office. It is more directed against the DMK Government than in support of any demands. It is only a political agitation, not a real employees' agitation.

MR SPEAKER : I found the minister defending the Government (*Interruptions*).

SHRI G VISWANATHAN : He can answer about the maintenance of GPF accounts

MR. SPEAKER : They have already allowed the issue of pass-books.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : What about the delay in the A. G.'s office ?

MR. SPEAKER : He says, that has ended with the issue of pass-books.

SHRI T. C. DHANDAPANI : Is it a fact that the bifurcation of the A. G.'s office in Madras into two different offices would create employment opportunities for 300 to 400 educated unemployed persons? Is it a fact that the accounting procedure followed in the A. G.'s office in regard to maintenance of GPF accounts is defective? Is it a fact....

MR. SPEAKER : It is a fact that these are leading questions giving information. I am not treating them as supplementaries.

SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI : Is it a fact that the State Government employees are agitating for a better performance of the particular section by introducing modern systems? Is it a fact that several crores of rupees have not been posted into the accounts...

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing it. Put in the from a supplementary. I wish I could invite your attention to the relevant rule. You are an old member ; I would not mind if it comes from a new member.

SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI : My question is whether it is fact that several crores of rupees have not been posted with individual provident fund accounts? May I also know whether it is a fact that anti-social elements who went underground in the past have come out and created trouble in the A.G's office ?

MR. SPEAKER : There is no need to reply to this. It is only information passed on to the hon. Minister.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : When Shri Vajpayee enquired whether Government have consulted the Comptroller and Auditor General, you did not allow that question. I would like to know whether it is not a fact that the introduction of computers anywhere, whether in Tamilnadu or Kerala, is bound to hinder the employment potential, the future promotion and even the present employment position. If so, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it has been ascertained that under no circumstances the job security is going to be affected by this. Has any assurance been given either by the Central or Tamilnadu Government? My accusation is against both the governments, not one.

SHRI K. R GANESH : As far as the first part of the question is concerned, the C & AG is satisfied that on the present facts there is no threat to the AG's office employees.

SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI : The Chief Minister of Tamilnadu has categorically

stated in the Assembly that the employment opportunities would not be affected.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, here is a ticklish question. You did not allow my question but now the hon. Minister has replied to that.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think it is the same question.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The same question was put by Shri Banerjee and you allowed it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: He puts the question and I get the information!

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: There is no division of labour between me and Shri Banerjee.

MR. SPEAKER: It is very difficult for the Chair or the Minister to solve this.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: Coming to the second part of the question....

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: He has to reply to the first question.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: On the present facts there is no threat of employment. What happens in future I cannot say; I am not an astrologer.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: What about the second question?

MR. SPEAKER: I think the second question does not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Scheme for Diversification of Work at Book Production Centres on N.C.E.R.T.

*321. **SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:** Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council for Educational Research and Training has prepared a Scheme for diversification of the work at its book production centre with a view to provide

training and employment to the educated unemployed particularly in towns;

(b) if so, the salient features of the Scheme; and

(c) whether the Scheme has been approved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Non-issue of Medicines for Diabetes to C. G. H. S. Beneficiaries

*324 **SHRI LILADHAR KOTOKI:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the C. G. H. S. beneficiaries are not issued medicines for diabetes from dispensaries after the initial three months, in spite of their regular contributions;

(b) whether medicines are issued to such patients only after serious complications involving heart arise and irreparable damage to health occurs; though non-C. G. H. S. beneficiaries continue to get medicines free of cost from Safdarjang Hospital, Willingdon Hospital and other General Hospitals; and

(c) the reasons for the discriminatory treatment with C. G. H. S. beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

At present supply of anti-diabetic drugs to CGHS beneficiaries is made from the C. G. H. S. dispensaries for an initial period of 3 months and for any period thereafter as recommended by the Specialists. After the initial period of 3 months, the medicines are issued only if there is any complication which is likely to be aggravated due to non-control of diabetes, as advised by the Specialist.

As regards other Central Government employees not covered under the C. G. H. S.,