

by anything else except power, and they say that no power is costlier than no-power. Therefore, we will have to find resources if we want to meet the power requirement of the people of this country.

[*Translation*]

Regularisation of Daily Wage Employees in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited

*727. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI:
SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of daily wage employees of Delhi and Bombay Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited who have been regularised after the judgement of the Supreme Court;

(b) the number of employees who are yet to be regularised; and

(c) the number of employees to be regularised during the next two months and the time by which all the employees will be regularised?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

- (a) 3267 in Delhi and 575 in Bombay Telephone Nigam Limited.
- (b) 4528 in Delhi and 9732 in Bombay Telephone Nigam Limited.
- (c) It will not be possible to regularise any casual mazdoor dur-

ing next two months. Because of the very nature of casual work it is also not possible to fix any time limit for absorption of all casual mazdoors.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, from the reply of the hon. Minister it seems that there were 4528 labourers in Delhi Telephone Nigam and 9732 labourers in the Bombay Telephone Nigam working on daily wages basis who could not be regularised. In spite of the fact that they have rendered service ranging from 2 to 6 years and hold good qualifications, they are working on petty jobs. Going by their period of service, quality of work done and considering the fact that a number of people are becoming overage, if you do not regularise them, they will automatically become overage while in service and then there will be none to come to their rescue. Will the hon. Minister consider giving priority to such persons in the matter of absorption in the vacancies that will arise in the near future.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Yes Sir, Our policy is, that whatever vacancies arise, priority will be given to those labourers who were working as casual labourers and have rendered continuous service. Priority will be given as per the seniority and the period of service and vacancies will be filled up only from amongst these persons without taking anyone from outside.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: The second problem is, that there are some persons belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes among these daily wages labourers. The policy of the Central Government has been that they will be given priority and their quota will be filled, but it has come to light that in many cases they are not recruited and other people are appointed in

their place. Will the hon. Minister ensure that those who belong to scheduled castes among these daily wages labourers, are absorbed first and then only the question of absorbing others is considered?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Yes, it is our policy and it will be our endeavour to fill up the S.C. and S.T. quota and give them priority wherever the vacancies reserved for them have not been filled.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: I want to know whether in the event of their quota not being filled fully, the vacant posts reserved for them will be held back and will not be filled from the open category as long as S.C. and S.T. candidates are not available?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: It is not possible for me to say right now as to how long the reserved vacancies will not be filled, because that would mean injustice to others. Even other workers whose period of service has become quite long, are also poor. I cannot guarantee that in case we do not get suitable persons for a particular quota, it will remain blocked indefinitely, because it will be difficult to do so.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: You will get..... (*Interruptions*)**

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am unable to understand the first point of the hon. Minister. These people are in employment and are doing some work. The problem is that the suitable posts for them have not been cre-

ated. They perform the same duties in the capacity of casual labourers which some regular employees perform. The question is not that of availability of vacancies or of filling them up. The question is as to how long will it take to create equivalent number of posts for the workers who are employed on casual basis?

[*English*]

How soon shall you create necessary quantum of posts, additional posts to cover this backlog? You are already spending money on them. They are already there in the job. They are already serving you. Therefore, it is only a matter of theoretical conversion of casual job into the regular job. How soon shall you do that?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This will depend on the requirement of the complement. We have seen one thing. There has been proliferation of posts in Government services. The Hon. Member, probably, is aware that, on the one hand, we go on adding posts... (*Interruptions*) Listen to me Mr. Shahbuddin. You listen to me. I will try to satisfy you. If we want to make our system functional, we will have to bring in some discipline. It is my experience. I have seen that the moment you regularise people in so many departments, people think that for regular jobs, no work is required to be done. The result is there is too much absenteeism. They think that the normal work hours are not for work. This is particularly true in respect of West Bengal. They think that over-time work is the real work. Normal work hours are not meant for work at all. That is why, they claim over-time. The result is that we have so much of proliferation. Forty per cent... (*Interruptions*) We must make our labour more responsible. We must make our work force more productive, more responsible to serve the country. (*Interruptions*)

**Not recorded.

SHRIS. JAIPAL REDDY: It is an affront on the entire labour class. (*Interruptions*)

31.3.88.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Mr. Jaipal, do not expose yourself. I have been saying that we should not have so much of absenteeism against which we employ these casual labours. Then we employ them regularly, and with the result, they have a natural claim of being made regular. But then, there are no posts. This is a vicious circle. I am myself keen that these workers should get justice and I shall try to see that they get justice.

Installation of National Telex Exchanges

729. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of National Telex Exchanges have been sanctioned and installed during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the names of the places at which these have been (i) sanctioned and installed and (ii) only sanctioned but not installed, State-wise as on 31 March, 1988;

(c) the likely date by which all the remaining exchanges would be installed; and

(d) the programme for the remaining years of the Plan?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) *List of National Exchanges sanctioned & testified as on*

1. Andhra Pradesh

1. Jeedimetla

2. Tanuku

2. Assam

1. Tazpur

3. Gujarat

1. Gandhinagar

2. Palanpur

4. Himachal Pradesh

1. Manali

5. Karnataka

1. Tumkur

2. Hebbagodi

3. Hassan

6. Kerala

1. Kasargods

7. Mizoram

1. Aizawal

8. Tamil Nadu

1. Tiruvannamalai

2. Kanchipuram

3. Gumandipondi