

Withdrawal of Minimum Guarantee from Private Public Call Offices Madras

190. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests for withdrawal of Minimum Guarantee from private Public Call Offices, Madras have been received;

(b) whether Government are reviewing the issue in view of public interest involved; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRI SHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The issue was reviewed recently and the minimum guarantee amounts were reduced for small and medium sized stations. The minimum guarantee amount which was Rs. 500 per month for all stations, has been revised with effect from April, 1989, as under:

Rs. 500 per month for Metropolitan and Major Telephone Districts, i.e. systems above 30,000 lines.

Rs. 300 per month for Minor Telephone Districts, i.e. systems with equipped capacity between 10,000 and 30,000 lines.

Rs. 200 per month for Telecommunication circles i.e. exchanges of less than 10,000 lines.

In case of Private Public Call offices, in Madras the minimum Guarantee amount will thus continue to be Rs. 500 per month. As of now there is no proposal for a change, but the policy will be reviewed from time to time.

Problems of ex-employees of Karachi Port Trust

191. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems of ex-employees of Karachi Port Trust who were absorbed in Government services in India after partition, due to non counting of their past service for the purposes of retirement benefits;

(b) whether Government are reviewing their cases in view of the small number of such staff; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRI SHNAN): (a) to (c) Pensionary entitlements of displaced persons from Pakistan are regulated according to the Rules in force at the relevant time. At the time of partition, service rendered in Local/Autonomous Bodies was not being counted and treated as pensionable service under the Government. Therefore, in the case of displaced persons, the reciprocal arrangement with the Government of Pakistan did not provide for the counting of the premigration service in Local and Autonomous bodies like Port Trusts for pensionary benefits. In view of this, the ex-employees of Karachi Port Trust are not entitled to count their past service for pensionary benefits after migration to India.

Reviewing the policies on curtailment of postal services

192. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Government had imposed curtailment of postal deliveries, ban on recruitment and other forms of curtailment of postal services causing inconvenience to the public;

(b) whether Government are reviewing the policies to restore the services; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The maximum number of deliveries was fixed at 3 in 1982. Apart from this in 1985, the number of deliveries in 'C' class and smaller towns having more than one delivery was reviewed and one delivery was reduced in 844 post offices. In some towns, to find man power for serving newly developed colonies, delivery in the main area had to be reduced. There is no ban on recruitment to fill up vacancies in existing posts. However, the delegated powers of the Deptt. of Posts to create new posts remain suspended and additional posts could not be sanctioned fully as required. A proposal to create 2876 posts in the clerical cadre and 1600 posts in the post men's cadre is under consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

(b) and (c) The Government proposes to carry out a general review of the situation particularly covering the curtailment of deliveries for want of man-power.

Action against jawans of Assam Rifles

193. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of jawans

of Assam Rifles were dismissed/jailed and are facing cases in courts for having collectively represented for implementation of Pay Commission's recommendations;

(b) whether Government propose to review their cases; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. FTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED) : (a) The jawans of Assam Rifles who had gone on agitation for the delay in implementation of the IV Pay Commission's recommendations were tried under the Army Act for indiscipline and some of them were dismissed from service as a result of these trials. The dismissed jawans have filed writ petitions in various courts of law seeking reinstatement in service and these cases are still to be disposed off by the courts of law.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Problems of the staff of the Publications Division, Trivandrum

194. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a note on the problems of the staff of Sales Emporium of the Publications Division, Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The note pointed out some delay in payments of dues to employers. Now there is no pendency at the Headquarters of the Division.