

(d) whether there has been representation against these discrimination, if so, what steps are being taken to correct this discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per annexed statement (See below).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Administrative Staff Association of All India Radio, Ahmedabad has filed a suit in Central Administrative Tribunal, Ahmedabad Bench pleading for 5 day week pattern for All India Radio Station's staff. The case is *sub judice*. Initially Photo Division switched over to 5 day week but subsequently in October, 1985 it reverted back to 6 day week because it did not come in the category of Civil Administrative Office. However as proposal has been received from Photo Division against 6 day week which is under consideration.

Statement

The following offices have switched over to 5 day week system:

1. Press Information Bureau;
2. Registrar for Newspaper of India;
3. Directorate of Field Publicity;
4. Research & Reference Division; and
5. Press Council of India

Other Media Units are partly following the 5-day week system as indicated below:—

(1) Directorate General—All India Radio:

The headquarter office is observing 5-day week. However, non-administrative offices including field offices, operational units, project offices, etc. of All India Radio have not switched over to 5-day week and continue to function on 6-day week pattern.

(2) Directorate General—Doordarshan:

All the staff in Directorate General, Doordarshan, Mandi House and Central Purchase and Store Office are following 5-day week system.

However, other offices under the Directorate located throughout India are following the old system of 6-day week with 2nd Saturday closed or shift system as per need.

(3) Song & Drama Division:

The Headquarter and all Regional Offices of the Division are observing 5-day week. However, the Departmental Troupes located at Headquarters and Regional Centres alongwith staff attached with Departmental Troupes and also of sub-centres of Song and Drama Division which have departmental troupes are observing 6-day week.

(4) Directorate of the Field Publicity:

The Administrative Offices of the Directorate have switched over to 5-day week, i.e. Directorate Headquarter in New Delhi and its 22 Regional Offices. 257 Field Publicity Units are observing 6-day week.

(5) Photo Division:

6 day week.

Postponement of annual convocation function of Indian Agricultural Research Institute

2488. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual convocation function of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute has been indefinitely postponed following threats by the students and the faculty member to boycott the convocation; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps have been

taken by Government to resolve the issues involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI):

(a) The Convocation of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has been postponed for the present because the Post-Graduate Student's Union had given a notice for boycotting the Convocation.

(b) The reason for boycott was the following demands of the Post-Graduate Students:

1. Increase in the amount of fellowship and contingency grant.
2. Increase in the duration of fellowship.
3. Direct recruitment of Ph. D. Scholars to the post of S-2 grade of the Agricultural Research Service.
4. Establishment of Natural Research Cadre.

It is proposed to hold the convocation at the opportune time after taking into account the representation of the students.

Tour to USA without permission by the official of Agricultural University, Ludhiana

2489. **SHRI M. KADHARSHA:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Assistant Chemist in Sugarcane Research Station at Jalandhar under Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana, was away to USA from March, 1984 to April, 1984 without permission of the competent authorities and on false certificate;

(b) if so the details thereof and whether full pay and allowances of the above official were drawn throughout her absence with connivance of the office;

(c) what were the reasons for her stay at America;

(d) whether she again went to America in September, 1987 without permission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI):

(a) Yes, Sir. However, the exact date of departure to USA, the exact period of stay there and the veracity of the certificates are not known.

(b) She had applied for leave in various spells from 28-3-84 to 31-8-86 but resumed duty on 7-8-86. Earned leave on average pay, Half Pay leave and extra-ordinary leave (without pay) were granted for the periods 28th March 1984 to 3rd June 1984, 4th June 1984 to 1st October 1984 and 2nd October 1984 to 31st July 1985 respectively. Leave for the period from 1st August 1985 to 6th August 1986 has been sanctioned so far.

(c) Reasons given by the person concerned are Medical grounds for treatment of Thyroid disease and Anxiety Neurosis.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) She had applied for leave from 7-9-87 to 6-3-88 on medical grounds. However, it has been rejected and she has been asked to resume duty by 31-3-88 or to submit Medical Certificate from some Government Hospital/ or Doctor in USA in support of her leave application failing which action will be taken as per rules.