

Regularisation of Muster Roll workers/Casual Labour

1338. SHRI DHANESHWAR MAJHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry received any order issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (Ministry of Home Affairs) in the month of August, 1979 regarding regularisation of muster roll/casual labour engaged in his Ministry and Departments/Subordinate offices under it;

(b) whether these orders had been implemented by his Ministry as well as departments/Subordinate offices under his Ministry by giving regular posts to muster roll/casual workers, if so, what is the number of workers regularised; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) This Ministry have not received any order issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (Home Affairs) in the month of August of 1979 regarding regularisation of muster roll workers/casual labour engaged in this Ministry. However, this Ministry received an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms in the month of July, 1979 which is relevant.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table Of the House.

Selection of Sub-Standard drugs for ESI Scheme in Maharashtra

1339. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that substandard drugs were selected

for the Employees State Insurance Scheme in Maharashtra for which the ESI Corporation under his Ministry bears 7/8th of the total expenditure; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VEER ENDRA PATIL): (a) The administration of medical care under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme is the statutory responsibility of the concerned State Governments. According to the existing arrangement, the rate contract for purchase of medicine under the ESI Scheme in Maharashtra is finalised by the State Government themselves. It has been reported by the State Government that no sub-standard drugs were selected by them for the Employees' State Insurance Scheme.

(b) Does not arise.

Pension to Retired Journalists of Pre-Independence Era

1340. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Veteran Journalists Association have requested for grant of pensions to retired journalists of pre-independence era; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The freedom fighters including journalists or their dependents who satisfy the eligibility criteria prescribed under "Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980" are already entitled for grant of pension.