

observe the censorship order. This relaxation operates in all States except, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal.

Scale of pay of linemen, wiremen and switch board personnel of Military Engineers Service

593. SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scale of pay starting from Rs 260/- is not given to linemen, wiremen and switch board personnel in the Military Engineers Service whereas this scale is given to such personnel in other Departments of the Central Government;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps Government propose to take to remove the disparity; and

(d) when this scale is likely to be given to these persons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J.B. PATNAIK): (a) to (d) A statement is attached.

Statement

Prior to 1st January 1973 the civilian posts of Lineman, wireman and Switch Board Attendant in the Military Engineers Service carried the Pay-scale of Rs. 85—128. The Third Pay Commission recommended a pay-scale of Rs. 200—280 for these posts. The Government, however, decided to improve the scale to Rs. 210—290 with effect from 1-1-1973 and this scale was duly notified on 24th December, 1973.

In the case of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, the pay-scales of Lineman, Wireman and Switch Board Attendant prior to 1st January 1973 were Rs. 75—96, Rs. 35—110 and Rs. 110—155 which according to the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission were revised to Rs. 210—270 Rs. 210—290 and 260—350 res-

pectively. It will thus be seen that only the Switch Board Attendants of the P&T department are drawing a higher scale of pay.

The third Pay Commission has *inter alia* recommended that some Defence workers borne on the pre-revised pay scale of Rs. 85—128 who were stated to be doing skilled work comparable to skilled workers drawing higher scales in other departments should, where necessary, be reclassified after proper evaluation. In accordance with this recommendation of the Pay Commission, an Expert Classification Committee has been appointed by the Government to evaluate the job content of various civilian posts in the Defence establishment. The Committee is expected to start its work shortly. When the findings of the Committee are available, the question of upgrading the scale of the post of Switch Board Attendant on a par with such posts in Posts and Telegraphs Department will be considered.

Indo-South Korean Agreement on Scientific and Technological co-operation

594. SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indo-South Korean Agreement has been signed for Scientific and Technological Co-operation between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The agreement provides for exchange of scientists, research workers, specialists, scholars, exchange of scientific and technical information and documentation, organisation of bilateral scientific and technical seminars and problems of mutual interest, joint identification of scientific and technical problems, formulation and implementation of joint research