

(b) It has been reported that the employees of Samachar Bharati are currently being paid consolidated salaries, inclusive of Dearness allowance; conveyance and other allowances are paid extra, wherever applicable, and the total emoluments exceed the minimum prescribed by the Wage Board for working journalists. It has been also reported that the service rules, made recently and brought into effect retrospectively, provide for leave and other facilities on the lines of the Wage Board Award.

(c) It has been reported that the pay scales would be fixed after assessing the revenue of the current year, so that, if it goes beyond Rs. 5 lakhs, the agency can be placed in higher category and employees paid accordingly. The Labour Department of the Delhi Administration has requested the management in writing to implement the decision failing which legal action would be considered.]

PAYMENT OF SALARY TO THE EMPLOYEES OF SAMACHAR BHARATI NEWS AGENCY

1578. SHRI REWATI KANT SINHA :

SHRI R. N. JHA :

SHRI Z. A. AHMAD :

SHRI YELLA REDDY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that apart from the New Delhi Office of Samachar Bharati News Agency, the employees of the branch offices at Patna, Bombay, Bhopal and Indore have not been paid timely for the last one year; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF SAMACHAR BHARATI NEWS AGENCY

1579. SHRI G. BARBORA :
SHRI REWATI KANT SINHA :
SHRI Z. A. AHMAD :
SHRI M. V. BHADRAM :
SHRI R. N. JHA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) what are the reasons for not applying the principle of 'equal pay for equal work' in respect of the employees of the Samachar Bharati News Agency in New Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that the employees working in its branch offices at Patna, Bombay, Bhopal, Indore, Madras etc. have not been paid their salaries for the last three months; and

(c) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to apply the principle of 'equal pay for equal work' and by when they propose to get the arrears of their salaries paid to them and what are the reasons for delay in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) to (c) The subject matter of the question falls in the State sphere. It has been reported that the employees in Gujarat State have not been paid salaries for the last three months, though no complaint was received by the State Government. The State Governments have now requested the management to make the payment immediately. Non-payment is stated to be due to non-receipt of payment orders. In Maharashtra (Bombay Office), the wages of employees for June 1969 was paid after a delay. The management have been advised to ensure payment on or before the 7th of each month, as per the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1948 under which the Bombay office is registered.

EXHIBITION OF FILMS 'GANDHIJÍ'S DANDI MARCH, 1930'

1580. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MOKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have refused permission for the exhibition of 3 films on

Gandhiji's Dandi March, 1930 which have already been passed by the Board of Film Censors; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

SOUTHERN FOOD ZONE

1581. SHRI KESAVAN (THAZHAVA) : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to create a southern food zone consisting of the States of Kerala, Mysore and Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : States of Kerala, Mysore, Madras and Andhra Pradesh belong to the same zone in so far as movement of wheat and wheat products is concerned. Restrictions on the movement of coarse grains out of Andhra Pradesh, Madras and Mysore also continue. As regards rice, each of the four States forms a separate zone, and there is no proposal to discontinue this arrangement.

CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO KERALA FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

1582. SHRI KESAVAN (THAZHAVA) : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the assistance given to the Government of Kerala for agricultural production, minor irrigation and land development schemes during 1967-68, 1968-69 and so far in 1969-70;

(b) the amount of assistance asked for by the Government of Kerala during the above period;

(c) the amount of assistance given to other States during the above period; and

(d) the amount of assistance asked for by other States during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) Central assistance is released to State Governments for Centrally Sponsored and Centrally aided (State Plan) Schemes. The Central assistance given to the Government of Kerala for these schemes during 1967-68 and 1968-69 is given below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Scheme	Amount released			
	1967-68		1968-69	
	Loans	Grants	Loans	Grants
(1) Centrally aided (State Plan)	180.82	163.19	205.20	169.05
(2) Centrally Sponsored	6.25	29.68	..	15.97
	187.07	192.87	205.20	185.02