

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA Sir, on a point of order The Minister does not understand the question

MR CHAIRMAN Let the Minister reply

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA He has not understood it

SHRI DINESH SINGH The hon Member has come to a conclusion without giving me a chance to say what I was going to say

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA In the beginning you said it did not arise out of this

MR CHAIRMAN He did not say that

SHRI DINESH SINGH What I was trying to say was at what price we offer this is our responsibility It is for us to settle this with the State Government, with the transport with the mine-owners and everybody else concerned at what cheapest price we can get it to the port Therefore, we discuss with the foreign buyers at what price it will be available to them It is not really a matter at what price we should get internally ourselves, that we have not to discuss, but at what price we are going to sell them is what we are going to discuss with them

श्री राजनारायण अगर माननीय, मंत्री जी सवाल का सीधा उत्तर नहीं दे सकते हैं, तो उन्हें कहना चाहिए कि मुझे नोटिस चाहिए और तीन बार से उसी बात को वे रीपीट करते जा रहे हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि 1965-66 में, 1966-67 में और 1967-68 में कितनी क्वान्टिटी में निर्यात होगा ? उसके रेट 1965-66 में क्या थे 1966-67 में क्या थे और 1967-68 में क्या रहेंगे, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ ?

श्री दिनेश सिंह मुझे ख़ुशी है सभापति महोदय, कि माननीय सदस्य ने एक सवाल

तो माफ़ पूछा। अगर पहले ही वे माफ़ न लें तो मैं बताना देता हूँ कि मैंने अर्ज किया कि 1967-68 में क्या दान होगा, इसके बारे में अभी बात चल रही है कि आगे किस दाम पर भेजा जायेगा। हम पता से दाम बतही करते हैं और उसी साल के अन्दर तय करते हैं। आजकल उनके बातचीत चल रही है कि किस दाम पर हम उनका बेचेंगे।

SHRI P K KUMARAN May I know from the hon Minister whether the Japanese experts team which visited India recently were taken to the Bellary-Hospet area to examine whether they can export ore from that area? If so, what has been the conclusion which has been arrived at with them regarding the exporting of iron ore from that area?

SHRI DINESH SINGH I cannot say exactly about the particular place the hon Member has in mind, whether they went there or not But as we know, 5 million tonnes roughly of the ore that goes to Japan come from the Goan mills, 2.80 million tonnes come from all others combined, and about 2 million tonnes from the Chhiburu ore

EX GRATIA PENSION FOR RETIRED RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*65 SHRI T V ANANDAN Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway employees who retired before 1st April, 1957 would be granted an *ex-gratia* pension from January, 1967 and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH) (a) Yes Sir

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

The *ex-gratia* pensions will be granted to railway employees who retired from Government Railways on Contributory Provident Fund System prior to 1957 after completing 20 year continuous service and are still alive. The rates of these pensions are —

Paid drawn by the employee at the time of retirement	Amount of <i>ex-gratia</i> pension
Rs p m	Rs p m
80 or less	15 00
Above 80 and upto 130	17 50
Above 130 and upto 200	20 00
Above 200 and upto 500	22 50

SHRI T V ANANDAN Sir, as per the statement, it is revealed that all these non-gazetted employees whose pay under the First Pay Commission was Rs 500 and below are entitled to this *ex-gratia* pensionary benefit. May I know from the Railway Minister whether it is not a fact that such of those pre-1931 staff who retired prior to 1957 were entitled to the pre-1931 scale of Rs 650, although they were non-gazetted? They are denied all this pensionary benefit. Is it the intention to deny it to this class III staff whose maximum was Rs 650 in the pre-1931 scale?

SHRI C M POONACHA There had been some administrative difficulties. Prior to 1957, such of those employees who retired, some of them belonged to the Government Railways of Indian States and some of them to the privately owned companies railways. Therefore, there had been certain difficulties in the matter of deciding the quantum of the *ex-gratia* pensionary benefit in those cases. But since the matter was urged on the floor of this House as well as in the other House several times this question was further examined and in addition to the lump sum gratuity they drew or the provident fund payment they drew at the time of retirement and additional *ex-*

gratia payment has been agreed upon which is equivalent to the extra benefits that were extended to similar staff after 1957, people who retired on the pension scheme. These extra benefits which accrued to similar staff who retired after 1957 have been now made available to the class of employees referred to. It is an *ex-gratia* payment, and an *ad hoc* arrangement to help maximum number of employees who came under this particular scheme.

SHRI T V ANANDAN The point is that in the First Pay Commission the maximum scale given to the non-gazetted employees was Rs 500 although it was Rs 650 prior to the First Pay Commission. Such of those people who belonged to the companies—I am not referring to the State Railways, the Maharajahs' Railways, I am referring to the Indian Railways which were managed by the then companies which were brought under the State, that is the Central Government, from 1944—and who retired prior to 1957 drawing a scale of Rs 650 are denied this, by fixing the maximum at Rs 500 under the First Pay Commission. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Railway Ministry will revise it to become applicable to those class III servants who were drawing Rs 650 prior to 1st April 1957.

SHRI C M POONACHA The maximum that could be done under the circumstances has been done, it is an *ex-gratia* payment, an *ad hoc* decision. We hope that this would meet the maximum number of people who retired prior to 1957 and who had put in a continuous service of 20 years. That is also another criterion—20 years of continuous service. It is not merely the scale of pay that they drew. So all these conditions have been taken into consideration and we have come to a sort of *ad hoc* arrangement that would help maximum number of such people whose cases deserved to be examined by the Railways.

SHRI A D MANI May I draw the attention of the Minister to the

statement? It is stated therein that for persons drawing Rs. 80 or less, the amount of *ex-gratia* pension is Rs. 15 above Rs. 80 and up to Rs. 130 it is Rs. 17.50; above Rs. 130 and upto Rs. 200, it is Rs. 20; and above Rs. 200 and up to Rs. 500, it is Rs. 22.50. When it has been split into 50 np., there must be some principle on which the scheme has been worked out. May I ask the Minister to throw some light on the principle governing this *ex gratia* payment?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: As I mentioned earlier, this broadly is the additional margin of pensionary benefit that was subsequently agreed to be given to class III staff after 1957 i.e. extra margin that was given to those who opted to the pension scheme and retired as such, that additional marginal benefit that was extended to them has also been given to those who retired prior to 1957, and who had put in a continuous service of 20 years.

SHRI D. THENGARI: Here, the rates of *ex-gratia* pension at different slabs are given. The railway employees are also receiving dearness allowance at certain rates, at different slabs of their basic wages. Now, I want to know whether the rates of *ex gratia* pensions at different slabs are comparable, and how they are comparable with the rates of dearness allowance at different slabs of basic wages. And if they do not compare favourably will these rates of *ex gratia* pensions be brought on a par.

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: The element of the additional *ex gratia* pensionary benefit relates to the basic pay and not to the dearness allowance.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: This period April, 1957 refers to the date on which they were permitted to exercise their option by the latest. Now this order brings about a discrimination between people who did opt and who did not opt. People could not judge which was better for them or which was not better for them. Even people who retired after 1957 have

taken away a lump-sum pension. But since then the rupee has been devalued, the prices have gone up. So, the quantum of provident fund which they received has gone down in value. Therefore, in view of the overall decrease in the value of the money which they received, will the hon. Minister reconsider the whole scheme and extend the benefit to all the retired employees?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: I could not follow exactly the force of the argument the hon. Member advances. They had the option. They opted to receive the provident fund. The lump sum retirement benefit they could draw under the provident fund system.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: The value gone down.

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: At the time when they retired, received lump sum money. They exercised their option to receive lump sum amount under the provident fund scheme, in the hope perhaps that it would be a better proposition for them, instead of opting to the pension scheme. The option was exercised by the individuals themselves under their discretion. At that time the rupee value was not as is today. They had the benefit. But those who retired without any option after having survived all these years after retirement, represented that the Provident Fund System, was not to their advantage. They had reasons to feel that it was a loss. Therefore, they made an extra claim which was considered and the marginal *ex gratia* pension benefit was extended to them as a matter of pure compassion.

LAXMI RATTAN COTTON MILLS LTD.,
KANPUR

*66. SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Investigation Committee appointed under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act to look into the affairs of Laxmi Rattan Cotton Mills Ltd., of