

RAJYA SABHA

*Tuesday, the 5th April, 1966/the
15th Chaitra, 1888 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN

1. Shri N Ramakrishna Iyer (Madras)
2. Shri N. R. M. Swamy (Madras)
3. Shri M. V. Bhadram (Andhra Pradesh).
4. Shri V. T. Nagpure (Maharashtra).
5. Shri Arjun Arora (Uttar Pradesh)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

RURAL WOMEN'S LISTENING CLUB

*900. SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether Gram Laxmis, Gram Sevikas, Mukhya Sevikas are actively organising rural Women's Listening Clubs, and

(b) if so, the extent to which the Extension Officers for Women Welfare are helping the organisation of such Clubs in the villages?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY): (a) According to the information available with the Government, Gram Laxmis, Gram Sevikas etc are generally taking keen interest in organising rural Women's Listening Clubs

(b) The Extension Officers for Women Welfare are provided with a job chart in which the formation of Women's Listening Clubs has been included.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: May I know from the Minister whether the number of rural Women's Listening Clubs has increased since the time the programme changed from evening to afternoon which is more convenient to the village women?

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SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY: The number is constantly increasing. Now the number of rural Listening Clubs is 1856 and of urban Clubs is 2,038.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY. Who are these Gram Laxmis?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY: They are officers in the Community Development Projects.

DR SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA: What are the facilities given by the Government to these Clubs?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY: There are radios in these Clubs where the women listen to the radios and the questions they put are answered by the radio people and others who are concerned with this.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: How many of these Clubs have been established in the various villages of this country and how long will it take to establish such Clubs in the five lakh villages in the country?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The number has been given.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the Government has cared to find out how many of the receiving sets with these Clubs are in order and whether these Gram Laxmis have also been trained to repair the radio sets?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Occasionally, any radio set will go out of order but I am aware of the complaint that the lack of availability of dry batteries is one of the main problems which sometimes makes these go out of order. We are making special efforts to overcome this difficulty. So far as the training of Gram Laxmis is concerned for the repairing of these radio sets, all of them may not come up to that.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: May I know why is it that while the second and third category officers are known as Gram Sevikas and Mukhya Sevikas, the first category is known as Gram Laxmis? Do they bring in wealth in any way?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: They are supposed to increase the wealth of the country?

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN): Which are the States in which

these rural Women's Listening Clubs are functioning, where they are on the increase and where they are not, and if not, what are the reasons for that and what steps are being taken by the Government to popularise them?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY: States like Andhra, Maharashtra, Orissa, Madras and Kerala have evinced considerable interest in this scheme.

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH: How much amount the Government is spending for giving certain facilities to these Clubs?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: This is part of the Community Development Scheme and they have been brought into being as a result of the recommendations of the State Information Ministers' Conference held as far back as in October 1962.

*901. [Transferred to the 7th April, 1966].

*902. [The questioner (Shri Surjit Singh Atwal) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 5436 *infra*].

ALLOWANCES TO DEFENCE PERSONNEL ABROAD

*903. **SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the allowances and other amenities with their sources of payment admissible given to the Indian Defence personnel on deputation to the United Nations; and

(b) whether these allowances and amenities given to the Indian Defence personnel are at par with those given to the Defence forces of other countries which are similarly on deputation to the United Nations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Indian Army officers and personnel have served in various countries as part of the United Nations Forces. At present, they are serving only in Egypt. The allowances and amenities admissible to these personnel and the source which meets them is indicated in the statement laid on the Table of the House. See (below.) Information about the allowances and amenities given to the various Defence Forces of other countries is not known, but in respect of some allowances it can be stated that they are not

necessarily at par to those paid to the personnel of Indian Armed Forces.

STATEMENT

The Indian Army Officers and personnel serving with the United Nations Emergency Force in Egypt are given the following allowances and amenities :—

(a) Allowances:

(i) Normal pay and allowances as admissible in India, Compensatory (City) allowance in the case of both Officers and personnel below officer rank as well as compensation in lieu of quarters in the case of personnel below officer rank continues to be paid, if the officer or Other Rank was in receipt of the same immediately prior to being posted to Egypt, provided his family continues to reside at the same station, and in the case of compensation in lieu of quarters in the same accommodation, where he was when receiving the allowance.

(ii) Expatriation allowance at the normal rates, depending upon rank.

(iii) Additional Expatriation allowance, at rates depending on the salary group, as compensation for the levy of Indian income tax on their salaries.

(iv) A daily overseas service allowance not exceeding one US Dollar a day.

(b) Amenities:

(i) Free rations.

(ii) Free accommodation and allied services.

(iii) Postal concessions.

(iv) Payment of family allotment through official channels for officers, and free remittance of family allotment and casual remittance once a quarter for personnel below officer rank.

(v) Free medical facilities.

2. In accordance with the general financial arrangements with the United Nations, payment to the troops of the normal pay and allowances admissible to them is the responsibility of the Government of India. All extra expenditure is the liability of the United Nations. This extra expenditure will include items (ii) to (iv) under the head