

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : He said it is not the rule. Which is the exception then ?

(No reply)

श्री राम सहाय : क्या मैं मंत्री महोदय से जान सकूंगा कि क्या उन्होंने इन बातों की जाँच की है कि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन में जो इतनी ज्यादा तनखाए दी जाती हैं साधारण व्यापार में जो तनखाए दी जाती हैं उसमें वे कितना ज्यादा हैं ? व्यापारी जो व्यापार करता है उससे औसतन इसमें कितना ज्यादा खर्चा आता है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : मैं समझता हूँ कि इससे कम तनखाहों पर खानगी व्यापार में, प्राइवेट कंपनियों में कोई काम नहीं करता होगा। इतनी कम तनखाहें पब्लिक सेक्टर में, खान तौर पर स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन में, दी जा रही हैं कि हमको रिक्रूटमेंट करने में अब मुश्किल हो रही है।

जहाँ तक ओवरहेड का ताल्लुक है, मैंने जब स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन की रिपोर्ट सदन में रखी थी तो बताया था कि 150-200 करोड़ रुपए के व्यापार के लिए 47 परसेंट है।

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN) : May I know, Sir, what is the procedure followed for direct recruitment, whether it is advertised and whether there is a panel of names to select the candidates ?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH : Sir, I have explained the whole procedure, that the posts are notified to the Employment Exchanges and also advertised, that the posts are also filled by departmental promotions. An hon. Member earlier asked and I said that the State Governments also send their names to the Home Ministry in the case of certain posts. Where direct recruitment is concerned, the departmental committees interview and select persons for posts which are advertised generally.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : The hon. Minister said that the higher posts have gone to a particular community, to the community to which the Chairman of the S.T.C. belongs, and that that community abounds in talents. Does the Minister mean to say that there are no talents anywhere else and all the talents have been found in that particular community ? There is a clear indication from the answer itself that there has been favouritism and nepotism there.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH : Sir I entirely dissociate myself from the charge. I never said that a particular community only abounded in talent. Because the hon. Member found two or three gentlemen—out of 45—having the same surname as the Chairman, he asked whether they were related to the Chairman. I said, "No" and because one or two officers have come from that State along with 100 or 200 others, that particular community has more educated people like my hon. friend, Shri Dabhyabhai Patel, whose surname is borne by them.

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD : May I know, Sir, whether any reservation was made for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people as defined in the Constitution and, if so, whether that percentage has been recruited ?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH : On several occasions I have said that we give the greatest preference for that particular community, both Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and we are fulfilling their percentage quota in as many posts as possible.

DUTY HOURS OF CLERICAL STAFF ON RESERVATION WINDOWS OF DELHI AND NEW DELHI STATIONS

*764. **SHRI D. THENGARI :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 942 in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th April, 1966 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the clerical staff on the reservation windows at

the Delhi and New Delhi Stations have to perform eight hours continuous duty without any slack periods;

(b) whether the reservation staff at the New Delhi Central Reservation has to put in only six hours of duty; and

(c) if reply to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative what steps Government propose to take to provide meal relief to the staff and to remove the anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI D. THENGARI : Sir, the hon. Minister is quite well aware that the reservation clerks everywhere have to spend quite some time in handing over and taking over charge and that this period is not included in their regular working hours. Will the Government give second thought to the matter and include this period of handing over and taking over charge in their regular working hours?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : So far that has been the case and so far there has been no thinking in regard to changing it. Now that the suggestion has been advanced, it will be considered.

SHRI D. THENGARI : Has it come to the notice of the Government that, in the interests of the general public standing in a queue, and also in the interests of the employees on duty to serve them, who cannot dispense with their meals day after day, it will be advisable to specify their lunch hour?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : Actually, in the case of the people who are on duty at the Delhi Main Station, their first shift is from 6 to 14 hours. The second shift is from 14 hours to 22 hours. So one can easily take his meal after the first shift ends at 14 hours.

And those who come for the second shift come at 14 hours and so they can come after taking their meals. There should not be any difficulty on that account.

SHRI D. THENGARI : What administrative difficulty can arise if at about 12 or 12-30 in the noon a lunch hour is fixed?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : Even normally there is some reduction of the duty hours because they do take their meals while rendering their duty. That is usual. And here it has been definitely stated that the first shift ends at 14 hours and the second shift starts at 14 hours. So they can make adjustments.

SHRI A. D. MANI : It seems reservation clerks have to maintain the registers of the reservations made. That means that a considerable amount of writing work has got to be done. The reservation clerk has also got to check up the cash before handing over charge and he has to spend nearly an hour in this process of handing over charge. So is it not fair that this should also be included as part of his official duty and he may be given corresponding relief in the hours of work that he has to render?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : No, Sir. As I said earlier we are not thinking like that.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know if the advisability of reducing their hours of work has been considered by the Government? The Government cannot expect these people to work continuously, as the hon. Minister correctly said just now, for 8 hours. So I ask whether their working hours are being reduced.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : We are guided in this regard by our Acts and also by various recommendations made by various commissions which have so far gone into all these things. On the basis of their recommendations a railway servant whose employment is

classified as continuous employment cannot be employed for more than 54 hours a week on an average in any month. And these reservation clerks are generally classified as continuous employees and nowhere does this 8 hours duty come to 54 hours a week. It comes to much less than 54 hours.

DR. D. R. GADGIL : If the duty hours given by the Minister are examined it would appear that to go and start the duty at 6 A.M. I suppose the person has to leave his place of residence at 5 or 5.30 in the morning. And if he returns after the 2 o'clock shift then between 5.30 A.M. and 2 P.M. or 2.30 P.M. working without a recess for food appears very curious. In all factories, say after four hours, there is a break of half an hour for food or something like that. Surely, Sir even if it is continuous service, can I not take it that some of these basic human requirements are being taken into consideration by the Railway authorities ?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : That is a suggestion, Sir. And here also in this Parliament, Rajya Sabha has a lunch break, but the Lok Sabha is not having it. So this can be compared to the situation in the Railways.

PROF. SATYAVRATA SIDDHANTALANKAR : Sir, it is my experience that whenever on the telephone the railway reservation number is dialled, it is always found to be busy. That means that the number of telephones that are allotted to those persons is not sufficient. Will the hon. Minister consider the advisability of adding more telephones to them ?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : We recently increased the number of telephones. But it is a fact that sometimes that telephones that are there near the reservation counter are found engaged. We are thinking of how to cope with the situation. If the situation demands it we will further increase the number of telephones.

*765 [The questioners (Shri Ram Singh and Shri Sundar Mani Patel) were absent. For answer, vide cols. 4995 infra.]

PLYWOOD INDUSTRY

*766. **SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by Prof. Dr. F. Kollmann, Director of the Wood Research Institute at Munich University to the effect that if plywood industry is rationalized Indian products such as decorative veneer will have foreign market; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to improve plywood industry from a point of export ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA) : (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) No, Sir. The Government are, however, aware that there is considerable scope for the export of decorative veneers and plywood because India is rich in species of timber which give exquisite decorative veneers for example teak, rose wood and walnut.

(b) The Indian Plywood Industries Research Association Laboratory at Bangalore has been set up by the Plywood Industry Voluntary Contribution Committee in cooperation with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research with a view to suggest *inter alia* steps to be taken for research and development of the industry. As a measure of export promotion, veneers and plywood are subsidized by the Plywood Industry Voluntary Contribution Committee to the extent of 20 per cent. of the f.o.b. value of exports.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE : May I know what is the foreign exchange earned through the export of this plywood and veneer and which are the countries to which they are being exported ?

SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA : Sir, the exports are to the United Kingdom, the U.S.A. and the Middle East countries. The foreign exchange earnings in 1964-65 came to Rs. 8,64,651.