

fused to take possession of the accommodation for one reason or the other; and

(c) in case the reasons given by them are not convincing, what action has been taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI MEHR CRAND KHANNA):

(a) 146.

(b) 11.

(c) 5 such employees were debarred for allotment of Government accommodation for a period of six months, as provided in the rules. The refusal of the remaining six was accepted as reasonable.

CASUAL LABOURERS EMPLOYED BY C. P. W. D.

860. SHRI R. N. KAKATI: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that casual labourers are employed on muster rolls for the work in C.P.W.D.;

(b) if so, what wages they are paid for a day;

(c) whether it is a fact that they are not paid for Sundays and other gazetted holidays; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA):

(a) Yes.

(b) The rates of wages vary according to the trades in which and the localities wherein the workers are employed.

Workers governed by the Minimum Wages Act are paid according to the minimum rates fixed under the Act. In other cases wages depend on the

prevailing local rates or the rates, if any, fixed by the State Government.

(c) and (d) All casual or muster roll labourers employed by the C.P.W.D. are paid for Sundays, provided they have worked continuously for six days. They are allowed, with wages, 3 national holidays viz 26th January, 15th August and 2nd October. On other holidays on which they are not engaged no wages are paid. Such holidays do not, however, cause any discontinuity in their employment for the purpose of grant of weekly paid holiday.

PRESS TOUR ARRANGED BY I. AND B. MINISTRY

861. SHRI R. N. KAKATI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry arranged a press tour recently;

(b) if so, which are the newspapers which were asked to send their representatives to take part in this press tour;

(c) the places they visited; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN CHARGE, MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SHAM NATH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A statement giving the requisite information is attached. [See Appendix XL, Annexure No. 81.]

(c) A copy of the itinerary of the tour is attached. [See Appendix XL, Annexure No. 82.]

(d) A sum of Rs. 19,000 was sanctioned for the tour. The actual expenditure will be known after all the bills have been received from various parties.