

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jagjivan Ram, kindly say it in English also. Mrs. Ramamurti wants the answer in English.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: The case is this that some provisional promotions were given in 1952. Through a clerical mistake, in the order issued to the employees, it was not mentioned that the promotions were provisional and that they would have to compete in a regular test. Well, all these men were given employment. It was noticed later on that there were three officials senior to these eight persons in whose cases it was stated that the promotion was provisional. In order to avoid this anomaly, they were also given exemption.

श्री राम सहाय : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या वे इस बारे में विचार करेंगे कि एक ही श्रेणी के लोगों में इस प्रकार का भेदभाव करने से उनमें असन्तोष पैदा होता है ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : मैंने आपको बताया कि आपत की अवस्था में जो काम कर दिया जाता है, उसी को आदर्श नहीं बना सकते ।

MISAPPROPRIATION OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS ON THE WESTERN RAILWAY

*320. SHRI P. N. RAJABHOJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Special Police Establishment have detected misappropriation of Government funds in the execution work of the doubling of the railway track in the Godhra-Ratlam sector on the Western Railway; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) While finalising the earth work contracts of Godhra-Ratlam doubling, it was revealed that some overpayments were made in "on account" bills. The

case has been handed over to the Special Police Establishment for investigation.

(b) Investigations by the S.P.E. are in progress.

श्री पा० ना० राजभोज : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी कृपा करके बतायेंगे कि क्या यह बात सच है कि इस केस की तलाश करने के लिये इनवेस्टिगेशन अफसरों ने केन्द्रीय सरकार से कुछ ज्यादा अधिकार मांगे हैं ।

श्री जगजीवन राम : एस० पी० ई० के लोगों को इनवेस्टिगेशन करने के लिये जितने अधिकार चाहिये, वे प्राप्त हैं ।

श्री पा० ना० राजभोज : दूसरा सवाल यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह बात सच है कि यह २० लाख रुपया आदिवासी कामगरों को वेतन देने के लिये रखा गया था ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : यह अजीब प्रश्न है । यह वेतन देने के लिये रखा गया था या नहीं, यह तो ठेकेदार जानें । प्रश्न तो इतना हमारे सामने आया कि ऐसा जान पड़ता है कि मिट्टी पाटने का काम जिन ठेकेदारों ने किया है, शायद उनको कुछ पैसे अधिक दे दिये गये हैं । कुछ बातें देखने से हमारे आदमियों को शक हुआ कि शायद यह बात हो सकती है । इसलिये हमने इस मामले को छान बीन करने के लिये पुलिस में दे दिया है । छान बीन करके जब पुलिस अपनी रिपोर्ट देगी तो सम्बन्धित अफसरों के खिलाफ मुकदमा चलाने की या और कोई कार्यवाही जो उचित जंचेगी की जायेगी ।

श्री पा० ना० राजभोज : क्या माननीय मंत्रीजी कृपा करके बतायेंगे कि आदिवासी कामगरों के लिये कितना वेतन रखा गया था और कितना दिया गया ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : इसको हम नहीं बता सकते । शायद यह हमारा काम भी नहीं है ।

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know when the investigation has been started and how long it will take to finish it?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: As soon as it came to our notice that there was some possibility of overpayment having been made, the question was referred to the Special Police Establishment. How long they will take to finish it, it is too much for me to say.

Ex-BURMA POST AND TELEGRAPH EMPLOYEES

***321. DR. A. N. BOSE:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received any representation from the ex-Burma Post and Telegraph Employees Association for payment of arrears due to about a dozen ex-Burma Post and Telegraph employees who have since been reabsorbed in the Posts and Telegraphs Department of the Government of India; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make payment of these arrears at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. P. SUBBARAYAN): (a) Yes.

(b) No, Government had made it clear in the orders issued that no arrears would be paid for the period prior to the date of issue of the orders.

DR. A. N. BOSE: What is the reason for this denial and may I know whether it is a fact that some arrears accrued to them following the upward revision of the pay scales of these employees with effect from the date of their reabsorption in India, the arrears being the difference between such revised higher pay and their actual drawings since the revision?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: The matter was considered as a whole. The Finance Ministry only paid them *ex*

gratia and therefore no question arises whether they are getting any back pay.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: The question postulates that the ex-Burma Post and Telegraph employees are in arrears of payment. May I know in what way the Government of India is responsible for these payments?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: The Government of India are not responsible. What I said was, considering the difficulties they experienced in coming back from Burma and their re-employment by our Department in vacancies, we gave them *ex gratia* payments in order to make things more equitable to them.

OVERTIME WORK DONE BY THE POST AND TELEGRAPH STAFF

***322. DR. A. N. BOSE:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the amount of (i) overtime work (by man hours) done by and (ii) overtime allowance paid to the Post and Telegraph staff during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. P. SUBBARAYAN): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

DR. A. N. BOSE: Is this indent for overtime work due to shortage of staff or due to non-filling of posts which are lying vacant?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: It is true. Because we have not been able to get the type of people we want, some posts lie vacant as a matter of course.

DR. A. N. BOSE: I cannot follow the answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not been able to follow your answer, he says.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: What I said was this. There are some posts unfilled on account of which there is overtime work for these people. It is