

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, 4th May 1956

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

MEMBERS SWORN

1. Shri P. D. Himatsingka (West Bengal)
2. Shri Perath Narayanan Nair (Madras).

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

FORMATION OF WAGE BOARD FOR WORKING JOURNALISTS

2. SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) when the formation of the Wage Board concerning the working journalists is to be announced; and

(b) whether it is under contemplation to afford them interim relief in regard to their wages?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) The Wage Board has already been constituted and its composition announced.

(b) This is a matter for consideration in consultation with the Wage Board.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Sir, May I know whether the Government is going to consult the Board under section 13 of the Act to fix interim wages as promised by the Information and Broadcasting Minister when the Bill came up for consideration?

29 R.S.D.—1.

SHRI ABID ALI: As I have indicated in part (b) of my answer to the question, this is a matter about which we will consult the Wage Board. We have also to consider whether asking the Wage Board to submit interim recommendations will further delay the submission of their final report. The representatives of the workers are also on the Wage Board, and it will be for them to consider whether it is in the interests of the workers to ask for interim recommendations. All these factors will have to be considered and if necessary, certainly we will ask the Wage Board to give their recommendations with regard to interim relief.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know whether facilities will be offered for the employees' representatives on this Wage Board by their employers to attend the Wage Board meetings?

SHRI ABID ALI: Of course, the employees' representatives should attend the meetings, and facilities will be given to them to attend the meetings. As I have already indicated, their representatives are there, and in case more representatives are to be consulted or if more of them appear before the Wage Board, they should be welcome.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know whether Government have received any information as to any employer refusing permission to any employees' representative to attend the Board meetings?

SHRI ABID ALI: I do not think such a contingency has already arisen.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know when the rules under the Working Journalists Act will be published and how long it will take?

SHRI ABID ALI: The provisional draft of these rules has already been made ready. These will be sent to the organisations of the parties concerned, and their preliminary