

COUNCIL OF STATES

Tuesday, 25th November 1952

The Council met at a quarter to eleven of the clock, MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF RAILWAY STAFF

*17. DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the anomaly that exists in the scales of pay of directly recruited graduates in Grade II on the Railways and departmentally promoted clerks in that grade and if so what steps are being taken to put an end to this anomaly ; and

(b) whether the Loco staff, such as the drivers on the Northern Railway have not yet been granted the same rates of travelling allowance as have been granted to Guards in the Ghaziabad Division ; and if so, what are the reasons for this difference ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) Government are aware that the directly recruited graduates are on the scale of Rs. 80—220 while the departmentally promoted clerks are on Rs. 55—130. There is no anomaly and the question of taking any steps to put an end to the anomaly does not arise.

(b) It is correct that Loco running staff on the Northern Railway have not been granted the same rates of running allowance as Guards in Delhi Division. There is no anomaly in this. The reason for this is that there had been a considerable fall in the running allowances earned by these Guards, after the introduction of the Revised Running Allowance Rules, whereas in the case of Drivers there has been no similar loss.

41 CSD

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL : May I know from my hon. friend if this is correct that the anomaly which he denies was put right by the Railway Board a few days ago ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : No, Sir. As I answered before an injustice was noticed in the case of the Guards of the Delhi area and not in the case of the Loco running staff.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL : May I know whether he does not recognise the existence of an anomaly where the directly recruited graduate clerks are doing exactly the same type of work that is being done by those who are not graduates ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Sir, I may inform the hon. Member that the Joint Advisory Committee which went into this question considered the cases of both categories and they have stipulated that these graduates should be put on a higher scale. They also said that 75 per cent. of the total number of clerks should be on the lower scale.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL : What I suggest is this. These categories of clerks are doing exactly the same kind of work. In the one case they are recruited as graduate clerks and in the other they are given promotion. The quality of work is the same and the duties are the same. Why should there be a distinction in the rates of pay ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I think the hon. Member is trying to argue the point. As I have already said, these people are promoted, whereas the others are directly recruited.

STAFF OF THE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

*18. DIWAN CHAMAN LALL : Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether Government propose to provide any negotiating machinery in respect of their dealings with the trade unions of the staff controlled by the Communications Ministry as in the case of the Railways ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : So far as the Ministry of Communications is concerned the question of providing a conciliation machinery for the Posts & Telegraphs Department is under consideration. It will be premature at this stage to say whether it will be on the pattern of the negotiating machinery of the Railways or otherwise.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL : May I ask the hon. Minister whether the Department is keeping the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour in respect of the conciliation machinery to be set up as guide for setting up similar machinery for the Communications Ministry ?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : That is to be taken into consideration.

PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME

*19. SHRI M. VALIULLA : Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any industrial concerns in India in which the compulsory Provident Fund Scheme has not been put into effect ; and

(b) if so, which are those concerns ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI) : (a) and (b). The industries in which Provident Fund Scheme is statutorily in force are coal mines, cement, cigarettes, electrical, mechanical or general engineering products, iron and steel, paper and textiles. Accurate information with regard to the position in other individual concerns is not available.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether he refers to both the Government concerns and those that are not ?

SHRI ABID ALI : No, Sir. The scheme does not apply to Government concerns.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Are there not some concerns which contribute to the Provident Fund ?

SHRI ABID ALI : There are some.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Is the rate of contribution uniform for all the concerns ?

SHRI ABID ALI : With regard to the industries just mentioned, it is uniform.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : May I take it that the rate is not the same in Government concerns where Provident Fund is given ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That is a different question.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : It applies to even limited concerns, owned by Government ?

SHRI ABID ALI : Yes.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : These limited concerns in conjunction with the other Governments, would they also be included in the exception which the hon. Minister referred to ?

SHRI ABID ALI : This Act does not apply to concerns owned by the Government.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH : Even if they are limited companies ?

SHRI ABID ALI : Yes, Sir.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH : Will the Minister consider the desirability of converting this Compulsory Provident Fund Scheme into a Compulsory Provident Fund-*cum*-Insurance Scheme ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That is a different question.

SHRI ABID ALI : So far as Insurance is concerned, that does not come under this category. The fund which comes out of this scheme is utilised for housing purposes.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH : The Minister can think of converting.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That is a suggestion.