

hon. Finance Minister in this House. But I would like to say that while we, in the Textile Ministry, have communicated to the Finance Ministry with regard to ensuring that this challenge is met, we are extremely mindful of the fact that the GST Council has equal participation of State Governments. The State Governments are supporting production of apparel based on man-made fibre and hence it is not only the responsibility at this end but actually समन्वय के माध्यम से ही प्रदेश की सरकारें जब आगे आएंगी, तभी इस चुनौती का समाधान संभव होगा।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA): Question No.265.

Wage revision of BSNL retired employees

*265. SHRI M. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether after retirement the Department of Telecommunications is responsible to revise the pension of the retired BSNL employees;
- (b) whether the revision of pension has been kept pending for the wage revision due to which the pensioners are put to hardship; and
- (c) whether the Ministry would expedite the wage revision and accordingly address this grievance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Sir, Pension revision of retired Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) employees gets linked to the pay-revision of the serving employees inasmuch as pension is calculated on the basic pay which the retired employee was earning at the time of retirement. Pension may be revised if the said basic pay is revised on account of pay revision of serving employees.

Since, Department of Telecommunications is the Administrative Department for BSNL, any pension revision proposal is to be piloted by the Department of Telecommunications for approval of the competent authority.

Due to poor financial condition of BSNL, it has not been possible for the Government to agree to the demand of pay revision. Hence, the issue of pension revision has also not been agreed to as on date.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM: Sir, the BSNL provides more services in the rural areas, but the State Government and the Central Government are not paying off the dues of the BSNL. Is the Government taking action to clear the dues?

श्री धोत्रे संजय शामराव: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो बात कही है, वह सही है। अभी हमारी जो priority है, वह वहां के जो कर्मचारी हैं, उनका वेतन देने की है क्योंकि BSNL की हालत सारे सदन को पता है। गवर्नमेंट ने BSNL और MTNL के लिए जो revival package दिया है, उससे उनकी स्थिति में कुछ सुधार आया है इसलिए हमारी पहली priority उनकी पेमेंट की रहेगी।

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM: Sir, thousands of contract workers are serving in the BSNL. But they have not been paid monthly salary for more than six months. What action is the Government going to take?

श्री धोत्रे संजय शामराव: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, उन्होंने क्वेश्चन करीब-करीब रिपीट किया है। अभी जो फंड्स की व्यवस्था हो रही है, उसमें से हमारी पहली priority contract labour के संबंध में, यानी हमारे जो छोट-छोटे contractors हैं, उनको पेमेंट देने की रहेगी।

SHRI SUBHASISH CHAKRABORTY: What is the final report of VRS taken by permanent employees of BSNL and what is the scenario of the payment of wages of the contractual workers of the last 11 months?

श्री धोत्रे संजय शामराव: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, बीएसएनएल में करीब-करीब 78 हजार और एमटीएनएल में लगभग साढ़े तेरह हजार employees ने वीआरएस के लिए option दिया हुआ है। उसका पूरा finalization 31 जनवरी से पहले हो जाएगा और Contract Labour के बारे में मैंने पहले ही जवाब दे दिया है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA): Now, Q. No. 266, Shri R. Vaithilingam, not present. Are there any supplementaries?

Construction of nuclear power plants

*266. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to speed up construction of nuclear power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 17 new reactors were in the pipeline of which seven are already under construction; and