

M O R N I N G

- 7.30:** Stood in the long 'Q' at the factory gate. Showed the 'document' to the Contractor and Security guard and got the pass made.
- 7.40:** Reached the office. Replied with a silent smile to the hoarse "Asshole, Why are you so late?" of the arrogant and uncivilized President. Attended with all my might to the collective orders of the Staff (Do the cleaning, Give me cold water, Take this file, Take that dispatch, Get the stationary, Fetch the electrician... and This and That) amid growls, whispers and threats.
- 8.30:** Entered the Computer Room on orders from *Bade Sahib* (Boss). Started working on the order of preparing three faxes and twelve lists by 12 o'clock.
- 9.30:** The meeting began in *Bade Saheb's* room. Brought and served tea and snacks from the canteen. Served cold water to the staff. Distributed the dispatch.
- 10.00:** Began work on the computer.
- 10.45:** There was a power cut.
- 11.00:** Went to the bank to deposit a cheque for *Chhote Sahib* (Junior Boss), and to the Post Office to send a registered letter for the President.
- 11.30:** The Power came back.
- 11.35 - 12.30:** Worked on the computer.

A F T E R N O O N

- 12.40:** Sat for lunch.
- 12.55:** The Boss came running to inform about the urgent meeting at 3 o'clock and yoked me into making a presentation.
- 2.45:** Prepared the biodata of the marriageable daughter of the Boss In-between (*Manjhale Sahib*).
- 3.30:** After a round each of water and despatch, made three trips to the shop-floor, with the instruments in a trolley.

E V E N I N G

- 4.25:** Went to the tap to wash before leaving. On return, Boss told me about the report to be sent to Head Office. Have to stay beyond office hours.
- 4.30:** Fetched 'courtesy snacks' from the canteen and served on Boss's table. Snacks looked delicious – bread-jam and butter-toast, patties, vegetable fries, biscuits, apples and bananas. Sat at the computer to make the report.
- 6.15:** Took the final printout of the report to the Fax Room. The Boss uttered a thank you, with a smile and asked to come early next morning.
- 6.20:** Junior Boss stopped me and handed me a heavy packet of snacks, with a loving gesture. The packet contains the fries and bananas. Were the vegetable fries too hot, or... anyway, wiping off tears I polished off everything because the bananas were sweet, even if somewhat rotten and disfigured.

Shrinath, "Office Days"
(Hans, December 2001)