

appoint effective public men to make a real impact on foreign Governments in places where they could be sent out to fill the posts held by the senior ICS men career diplomats?

**Mr. Speaker:** All that might be considered a matter of opinion.

**Shri Swaran Singh:** It is a suggestion for action.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** This matter of opinion had been hotly discussed, Sir. I beg to submit that your decision on this point is not correct.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

श्री विश्राम प्रसाद : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि एम्बैसेडरों का चुनाव उनकी योग्यता पर होता है। पर रूस में खुश्चेव को पकड़ लिया गया और यहाँ गवर्नमेंट को पता तक नहीं लगा। वहाँ के एम्बैसेडर को कौन सी योग्यता के ऊपर चुना गया था ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह बात तो खूब कही आप ने।

### Cost of Living Index

\*727. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Middle Class Cost of Living Index is ready and if not, the reasons for delay; and

(b) when the decision was taken, the work taken in hand and the stage at which it rests at present?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Lalit Sen):** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

The Government of India decided in November, 1957 to conduct an Urban Middle Class Family Living Survey with a view to preparing a Middle Class Cost of Living Index.

This Index is now known as the Consumer Price Index for non-manual employees.

The aforesaid survey was conducted in 1958-59 at 45 selected cities and towns. Weights in respect of the various items of consumer consumption have since been separately computed in respect of each of the 45 cities and towns where surveys were conducted. On the basis of these weights, the Consumer Price Indices are now being compiled with the year 1960 as the base. The indices relating to 16 capital cities are likely to be completed by the end of this month. The indices for the remaining 29 cities will be ready in about a year's time.

These indices could not be completed earlier primarily because of the very large volume of work involved in the tabulation and analysis of the family budgets collected during the survey and the price data collected during the last five years.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Sir, it is really intriguing that in a planned economy for the last nine years we have not been able to prepare this index. What are the insuperable difficulties? I might remind the hon. Prime Minister that the Second Pay Commission was told that this index would be ready in two years' time. Five years have passed. Even the Das Commission found its task difficult because this information was not available. What are the insuperable difficulties that we could not get this index prepared in nine years' time when we are in a planned economy and work was started in 1957?

**Shri Lalit Sen:** The difficulties have been pointed out in the statement laid on the Table of the House. There has been some delay but efforts are being made to complete the work as soon as possible. Indices regarding 16 cities will be ready by the end of this month and with regard to the other cities information will follow soon thereafter.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Do you think, Mr. Speaker, that this is satisfactory answer. Work was started in 1957. What are those difficulties that delayed the work for nine years?

**Mr. Speaker:** He says that they are given in the statement.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** They are not given in that statement. It is a bare, eight-line statement. No difficulty had been stated. They told the Pay Commission that it would be ready in 1960. How can they tell like that? What are those difficulties by which even in 1965 they could not get it done?

**Shri Lalit Sen:** Some of the main difficulties have been given out in the statement. As I have stated there has been some delay. There were other difficulties also. The Central Statistical Organisation handed over the work after the survey was completed in 1959 to the Indian Statistical Institute and they took about a year more than what was stipulated in compiling the information. Moreover, with regard to certain machines also, such as computers and tabulators, we had some foreign exchange difficulties. We have only 25 machines now, whereas much more are needed.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** May I claim the attention of the Prime Minister. This question is being answered on his behalf. I am not aware whether the hon. Prime Minister considers himself to be a middle-class man or not. Is he aware of the fact that this particular group is meeting increasing difficulties even in getting their necessities of life. What is his assessment of these difficulties? What steps have been taken or proposed to be taken, particularly for the middle-class group?

**The Prime Minister and the Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** I must admit that there has been considerable delay in completing this work. The reasons

have been given. Some of them may be reasonable. But I must say that the delay is rather inexcusable. However, I would like to inform the hon. Member and the House that this work has now been taken up in right earnest and expect that within seven or eight months it would be completed and we can take the House into confidence.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Mr. Speaker, this is the first question which was put to him. My question now to the hon. Prime Minister is whether in the absence of the index this particular group is having increasing difficulties even in meeting the necessities of life. This is my particular question. If in the meanwhile, they know it for all these nine years, what is his assessment of the situation and what steps do they propose to take? That is the question which I put to the hon. Prime Minister

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** As the hon. Member himself said, I also belong to a middle-class family.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Not now.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** You have been upgraded now.

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** In that case, all the Members of Parliament also do not belong to the middle-class families; they must also come in the other category.

However, it is true that there are difficulties. Whatever we plan for we have always in mind the problems of this class or category of people and those who are in services. Of course it is possible that we have not been able to give them as much relief as they really need. But still the Government has been trying to do its utmost to give them relief or the necessary relief. Yet, as I said, I do not say that we have done all that we could—the development of the country as a whole will definitely mean the improvement of the conditions of the middle-class families also.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** May I know, in this particular survey of urban middle class families, what will be the category of income which will be considered as the income of the middle class family, and in view of the fact that dearness allowance for the Central Government employees has been given only to those drawing up to Rs. 600, while in the case of income-tax relief, much higher relief has been given to the upper classes or categories, I would like to know whether the whole matter is going to be reconsidered in six months or seven months after which the whole thing will be coming out.

**Shri Lalit Sen:** As regards the income level of the Middle-class, I think most of them fall in the category below Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 per month.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Then, what is the huge amount of tabulation that has to be done in respect of the urban middle class? If the category chosen will be only that of Rs. 400 to Rs. 500, what is the huge volume of material that is required to be tabulated?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** I want to admit that I do not fully follow all these technicalities. It is said that there are about 180 items included in the index and in respect of each item about 700 quotations are taken every month. So, this work does involve the processing of about 7.5 million price quotations in all. This is a fairly complicated matter and it does take a good deal of time.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is what is the income that is considered as the income of the middle class family for this purpose. (*Interruption*).

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** I must say I would like to have time to give an exact indication.

**Shri Oza:** May I take it from the reply given by the hon. Prime Minister that so far as the non-Government middle class is concerned, this

study is purely academic and that the benefits, if any, are to flow from the various plans that we have undertaken all over the country?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** So far as I can see, the benefits will flow to all.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Is the hon. Prime Minister also aware that in all countries as also in this country, it is the middle class which creates a political climate in the country and whether this factor is also under consideration of the Prime Minister?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** Yes; it is so.

**Dr. Ranen Sen:** In view of the fact that most of the employees who belong to the middle class derive their dearness allowance due to rise in the cost of living index and in view of the delays in computation in the matter, who is going to reimburse and compensate loss that they have suffered in the meantime owing to the irresponsible attitude on the part of the Government?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** That is a hypothetical question; the report will come and then....

**Dr. Ranen Sen:** It is not a hypothetical question, Sir. Already it is a fact that the employees are suffering due to the delay and lack of proper tabulation of the cost of living index. My question was, who is going to reimburse the loss which they have already incurred. It is not a hypothetical question.

**Mr. Speaker:** When the tabulation is made, we will know what is the loss that is sustained.

**Dr. Ranen Sen:** If there is a loss, who is going to reimburse it?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Shri Banerjee.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** The hon. Prime Minister has said that the lower middle class are hard-pressed. Arising from that answer, I would like to know whether it has been brought to

his notice that persons who are in the lowest pay-range: Rs. 70—110, and Rs. 150—200, in Government service, have been paid the least dearness allowance, namely, Rs. 7.50 and Rs. 12 respectively and, if so, what steps have been taken by the Government to see that their quantum is raised so that they could meet the higher prices?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** The Pay Commission was appointed and it made certain recommendations.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** The Das Commission.

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** I am sorry; the Das Commission has also made certain recommendations which the Government have accepted and agreed to.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** What I want to know is whether Government would consider their case and revise the rates. The present recommendations are only Rs. 7.50 and Rs. 12 respectively for those categories.

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** The Government did consider the matter and came to the conclusion that that particular figure which has just now been mentioned by the hon. Member should be given.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Sir, my question has been misunderstood.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member says that that also is insufficient.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I say that everybody has not got more. Even the Das Commission has recommended only Rs. 7.50 and Rs. 12 for those on the pay-range of Rs. 70—110 and Rs. 150—200. That is the minimum. My question is whether the Government is going to revise their dearness allowance.

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** When the Commission has met and has gone into it and made that recommendation, we do not propose to revise it at present.

**श्री मधु लिमये :** दो साल पहले बम्बई में हड़ताल वगैरह हुई थी। उस के बाद गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र में मूल्य निर्देशक अंक को सुधारने के लिए दो कमेटियां बिठाई गई थीं, तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या अन्य राज्यों में मूल्य निर्देशक को सुधारने के लिए इस तरीके की कोई कार्यवाही हुई थी और जो अखिल भारतीय मूल्य निर्देशक है, क्या उस को सुधारने के लिये कोई प्रयास इस तरीके का किया गया था।

**The Minister of Labour and Employment (Shri D. Sanjivayya):** That does not relate to this. That relates to the consumer price index for the working classes. For instance, in Maharashtra and Gujarat, expert committees were appointed. Similarly, in Andhra Pradesh and Delhi also, they appointed expert committees.

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** In view of the fact that the prices have gone up enormously and the cost of living index has also gone up and the middle-class people are very hard hit, may I know whether the Government is thinking of providing some help to the people who are non-salaried, who are non-Government employees, among the middle classes?

**Shri Ranga:** Bring down the excise duties.

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** Relief has been given in some other way, but we cannot directly give them any assistance.

**Shri Sinhasan Singh:** May I know how many categories the Government propose to have, or into how many categories do the Government propose to divide the whole Indian population such as the upper class, middle class, lower middle class and the poorer class and so on? Into how many such classes or categories do the Government propose to divide the Indian population and on what basis?

**Shri Lalit Sen:** At present we have this cost of living index for the working class and for the non-manual class which is known as the middle class.

**Shri Warrior:** May I know whether, pending the final report, the Government is considering any possibility of giving any interim relief to the middle class people in view of the rising prices and other difficulties?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** It was only for this purpose that the Das Commission was appointed. They have gone into the matter and have made their recommendations.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** What about the other employees?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** In so far as the non-government servants are concerned, it is for their employers who have to consider this matter.

**Shri Kapur Singh:** Do Government propose to devise and accept a formula automatically linking the cost of living with the salaries of public servants?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** I cannot say categorically that we will do so. But generally it is taken into consideration. Our attitude is that when these increments etc. are suggested or are recommended or are pressed for, we appoint a Commission to go into the question and they take into consideration all aspects of the problem and advise the Government.

**Shri Kapur Singh:** Where is the difficulty in automatically linking it with the salary? That is my question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order order. Next question.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ के चार्टर में परिवर्तन

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\* 728 { श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :  
श्री प० ह० भील :

क्या बंदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि संयुक्त

राष्ट्र संघ के महासचिव ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ के चार्टर के सातवें अध्याय में कुछ परिवर्तन करने का सुझाव दिया है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि यह सुझाव कुछ देशों द्वारा राष्ट्र संघ को शान्ति बनाये रखने के लिये देय राशि न दिये जाने के कारण दिया गया है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

बंदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री (श्री स्वर्ण सिंह) :

(क) संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासचिव ने 20 फरवरी 1965 को न्यूयार्क में "पेसम इन टैरिस" दीक्षांत समारोह में भाषण करते हुए यह बताया था कि शांति को खतरा और हमले के कार्यों के बारे में कार्रवाइयों से संबद्ध चार्टर की व्यवस्थाओं के भिन्न-भिन्न अर्थ लगाए जाते हैं और यह कि चार्टर की व्यवस्थाएं कुछ पुरानी पड़ गई हैं। जाहिर है कि उनके मन में यह बात थी कि संयुक्त राज्य चार्टर के सातवें अध्याय में कुछ परिवर्तन किये जाने चाहिए।

(ख) जाहिर है कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासचिव के मन में शांति रक्षा कार्यों में धन लगाने के विषय पर हाल के विकट स्थिति की बात थी।

(ग) शांति रक्षा कार्यों के सभी पहलुओं को ले कर इसका समूचा प्रश्न अब एक विशेष समिति के सुपुर्द कर दिया गया है और भारत सरकार उसके विचार-विमर्श के परिणाम की प्रतीक्षा कर रही है।