

velopment should be preferred. The Planning Commission is in agreement with the views expressed by the N.D.C. Committee.

Drinking Water Supply for Madras City

*758. Dr. P. Srinivasan: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to augment supply of drinking water to the Madras City from Cauvery source has been finalised;

(b) if so, the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) if not, when the project is likely to be finalised?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Government propose to start work on this Scheme during the Fourth Five Year Plan period. As detailed plans and estimates have not been worked out so far, it is not possible to indicate as to when this Scheme would be finalised.

D.A. to Central Government Employees

*759. Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Bagri:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the abnormal rise in prices in recent months, the average consumer price index has gone up;

(b) if so, the latest available average consumer price index;

(c) whether Government have decided to increase the dearness allowance of Central Government employees to neutralise the rise in prices;

(d) if so, the slab of pay upto which the increase is proposed to be given;

(e) whether it is a fact that due to the abnormal rise in prices, there is discontentment and frustration among the low-paid employees; and

(f) if so, in what way Government propose to remove their genuine financial hardships?

The Minister of Planning (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The twelve-monthly average at the end of October, 1965 was 164.92.

(c) According to the Pay Commission formula, the next review of the rates of Dearness Allowance admissible to Central Government Servants is due only when the twelve-monthly average reaches 165.

(d) Does not arise at present.

(e) and (f). Low-paid employees have been granted dearness compensation from time to time to relieve hardship. Rates of D.A. were raised twice in 1964 with effect from 1st February and 1st October when the 12-monthly average registered 135 and 145.9 points respectively. Rates were again increased with effect from March this year when the average went up to 155.8.

Rural Electric Co-operatives

*760. Shri Himatsingka:
Shri Rameshwar Tanti:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have under consideration a scheme to intensify rural electrification works through rural electric supply co-operatives;

(b) if so, its main features; and

(c) when it is likely to be introduced?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) Yes, Sir.