

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I have said that the Reserve Bank is collecting it and we will try to get the information in that manner.

Pay Commission for Central Government Employees

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*1014. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to appoint a Pay Commission for the Central Government Employees;

(b) if so, its composition; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is premature to consider the matter at present.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Premature after six years? Even after 18 years of independence this Government, unfortunately, failed to bring down or even check the rising prices, as a result of which the Central Government employees throughout the country are demanding a national minimum need-based wage. I would like to know whether Government will consider this demand and refer the entire question to arbitration and see that the Central Government employees get a national minimum wage.

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: So far as the first part of the question is concerned, it is advice to us and not a question. As regards the second part of it, the matter is under active consideration. I cannot tell the hon. Member immediately that we are going to have an arbitrator appointed.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, I want to clarify this question.

Mr. Speaker: No.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My question is that.....

Mr. Speaker: He says that that is under consideration whether they can appoint one.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Central Government employees, on the basis of the recommendations of the Pay Commission and of the Das Commission, have also demanded a bipartite or a tripartite meeting to discuss the linking of dearness allowance with their need and the hon. Minister promised to consider this matter. I would like to know whether that matter will also be referred to arbitration.

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: The hon. Member is quite right in saying that there has been a demand by the Central Government officers and employees in the manner that he has stated. I would also inform this House, through you, Sir, that we are considering this question. The hon. Member knows that I have undertaken to him and generally to this House....

Shri A. P. Sharma: Why to him only?

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: "and to the House", I said. To him because he personally wrote a letter to me; he saw me several times and made several representations. Because of that I have already undertaken an inquiry to find out whether there is any possibility of meeting the demands of the employees of the Central Government which would be acceptable to them by negotiation with them or their representatives. If that cannot be done the question of arbitration will have to be considered; I do not say that I will certainly appoint one.

श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : माननीय मन्त्री जी ने धाश्वामन दिया है कि सरकारी कर्मचारियों के वेतन के सम्बन्ध में विचार करेंगे। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले कुछ वर्षों में एक धोर तो केन्द्रीय सरकार के कर्मचारियों के वेतन में वृद्धि होती रही है, दूसरी धोर राज्य सरकार के कर्मचारियों के वेतन बहुत

कुछ वैसे ही रहे हैं और इससे असन्तोष फैलता जाता है। क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार के कर्मचारियों के वेतन पर विचार करते समय सरकार राज्य सरकार के कर्मचारियों के वेतन-मान को भी ध्यान में रखेगी और इस बात की व्यवस्था करेगी कि दोनों में बहुत अन्तर न रहे ?

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: I agree with the hon. Member that any improvement in the conditions of service of the Central Government employees might result in a difference between the conditions of service of the Central Government employees and the State Government employees and that is a matter which will have to be seriously considered when considering the question of emoluments of the Central Government employees.

Shri Mohammad Elias: Yesterday, the hon. Finance Minister's colleague, Shri Mehr Chand Khanna, said that because of the low wages, most of the Government employees are corrupt because they cannot live on such a low wage....

The Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): I never said it.

Shri Mohammad Elias: In view of this, may I know whether the Finance Minister considers it necessary to constitute a pay commission to revise the pay-structure of the Central Government employees?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: What has been put into my mouth is not correct.

Shri Daji: He said that they would be angels if they were not corrupt. These were his words.

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: I am not responsible for the statement which has been made personally....

Shri Daji: How can he say that it was a personal statement? On a point of order, Sir. The Minister replied to the debate yesterday. Is it personal or private?

Mr. Speaker: He has not made that statement. What can I do?

Shri Daji: He has said it.

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: I make it clear that if it is a statement made on behalf of the Government, naturally I am responsible for it. But my colleague said just now that he did not make that statement. So, that question does not arise. So far as the question of referring the matter to a pay commission is concerned, I have already informed the House that the time is not yet ripe for doing that. We are trying to see whether we can in some way or other neutralise, to the extent it is possible, the rise in the cost of living.

Shri A. P. Sharma: The hon. Minister has said that the time is not yet ripe for setting up a pay commission. The last Pay Commission, that is, the Second Pay Commission, was set up in 1957. In view of the persistent demand of all the labour organisations of this country, particularly, the National Federation of Railwaymen, I want to know what is the reason that this Government is not in a position to set up a pay commission.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Wage Board.

Shri A. P. Sharma: Is the Government waiting for a countrywide agitation and movement by the workers and then only they will set up such a commission?

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: We are not waiting for any countrywide movement by the workers. We are hoping that the workers will see that the time is not yet ripe for doing it because the Pay Commission does not fix only the difference between whatever was their pay at the time it was fixed and what should be the pay now.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Wage Board.

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: Mr. Banerjee suggests a wage board. But that is a different thing.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Kachhavaia.

Shri A. P. Sharma: My question has not been replied to....

Mr. Speaker: He has said that, according to the Government, the time is not yet ripe for it.

Shri A. P. Sharma: I wanted to know what is the idea behind this.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot allow that. He cannot argue the case.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : क्या यह सही है कि राज्य सरकारों ने अपने कर्मचारियों के वेतन बढ़ाने से इंकार कर दिया है ? क्या यह भी सही है कि उन्होंने केन्द्रीय सरकार को लिखा है कि जब तक केन्द्रीय सरकार उनकी मदद नहीं करती है, तब तक वे अपने कर्मचारियों के वेतन नहीं बढ़ायेंगी ?

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: So far as the State Governments are concerned, the State Governments have got their own reasons for not increasing the emoluments of the workers. On that, I cannot make a statement. So far as we are concerned, the State Governments have not written us to say, "Unless you assist us, we shall not do so". (*Interruption*).

Shri D. C. Sharma: In view of the fact that all the time on the floor of the House and outside this House we are paying lip-service to the socialistic pattern of society, may I know whether the Government will consider only the grievances of the Central Government employees because they have to deal with them every minute and every hour of the day, or they will try to abolish the disparity which exists between one category of employees and other categories of employees in the matter of education fees and other things? Is the Government giving any consideration to that or not?

Shri A. P. Sharma: That can only be done by a Commission.

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: So far as Government is concerned, Government is aware that there are differences between different sets of employees—Central Government employees, State Government employees, private employees, public sector employees and so on. Naturally Government wishes to see that there occurs no positive difference between one set of employees and another. If I may inform the House, in doing that one has got to take into account the type of employment in which one is employed; some are in clerical employment; some are on the mechanical side. Then there is the question whether a particular type of employment is available or not. These are broad questions which are to be considered and Government is considering these.

Shri Priya Gupta: May I ask the Government whether it is not high time to think seriously about the principles and terms of references of having a Wage Board and whether the minimum wage should not be based on the minimum needs of life, i.e., the purchasing power of the workers instead of the capacity of the industry to pay which has been the guiding principle till now for fixing the wages? Because....

Mr. Speaker: He has put the question. The reasons need not be given.

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: I have had a little difficulty in understanding the question. The question is what is the economic principle behind fixing the wages. So far as the economic principle is concerned, it has been stated over and over again not only by Government but also by various labour tribunals, including the Supreme Court, and I do not think it is necessary for me to repeat it here. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

His question was this: it should not be the capacity of the industry to pay the wages that should be taken into account while determining as to what wages are to be paid, but it is the

desirability of fixing at least the minimum wages or desirable wages for the workers that should determine as to what wages are to be paid.

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: So far as the point as to what should be the minimum wage is concerned, there are many considerations and one of these considerations is the industry's capacity to pay; if the industry is not capable of paying, it will fold up and then there will be trouble to all those people who are employed by the industry. So, that is one of the considerations but not the sole consideration. There are other considerations, for example, what is the standard of living, whether there should be anything more. As my hon. friends know, there are three different types of wages—the minimum wage, the living wage and so on. So, there is not one standard.

Shri Priya Gupta: None of the three is there.

Mr. Speaker: He should now be content with that reply.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : हमारे संविधान में लिखा हुआ है कि सामाजिक न्याय सब को दिया जाएगा। एक ही सरकार के अन्दर केन्द्रीय सरकार भी है और एक ही सरकार के अन्दर स्टेट सरकारें भी हैं। एक ही शहर में काम करने वाले केन्द्रीय सरकार के कर्मचारियों को ज्यादा तनकवाह मिलती है और उसी शहर में काम करने वाले स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के कर्मचारियों को कम तनकवाह मिलती है...

श्री प्र० प्र० शर्मा : काम भी बराबर कर दीजिये।

Shri Priya Gupta: The MLAs are getting Rs. 250....

Mr. Speaker: The Member should be allowed to put his question.

Shri Priya Gupta: The MPs get Ra. 300. Why this discrimination?

Mr. Speaker: The Leader of the Group may hold him back.

Shri Priya Gupta: For this purpose, setting up a wage board for Central Government employees should not be postponed....

Mr. Speaker: He should behave in a better manner. I have been asking him to sit down but he continues. I will have to take action against him.

Shri Priya Gupta: ...by comparing with the State Government employees....

Mr. Speaker: Now he will go out.

Shri Priya Gupta: I am going out. But please do not put my leader into the wrong box. If I am wrong, you can take action against me.

Mr. Speaker: All right; I need not trouble him.

Shri Priya Gupta then left the House.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: This is not fair.

Mr. Speaker: I have asked him so many times. (*Interruptions*).

Shri S. M. Banerjee: He is the leader of the Central Government employees and, therefore, he was excited. He sat down when you asked him to sit down. Kindly call him back.

श्री हुकम चन्द कश्यप : मैं निवेदन करता हूँ कि उनको वापिस बुला लीजिये।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं निवेदन करता हूँ कि आप बैठ जायें।

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी : उनका कोई कसूर नहीं है।

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: May I humbly submit that you should call Shri Priya Gupta back, because he has not defied your order, and he had immediately sat down when you had asked him to sit down?

Mr. Speaker: Not in such a hurry.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : एक ही शहर में केन्द्रीय सरकार के एम्प्लायी रहते हैं और उसी शहर में स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के एम्प्लायी रहते हैं। दोनों भारतीय यूनियन के अन्दर हैं, लेकिन उनकी तनख्वाहों में फर्क है। इसलिये क्या सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट बतला सकती है कि क्या यह नाबराबरी नहीं है कि सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के एम्प्लायी को ज्यादा तनख्वाह मिलती है और स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के एम्प्लायी को कम मिलती है। क्या सरकार इस को दृष्टि में रखते हुए कोई योजना बना रही है जिसमें सेंट्रल और स्टेट गवर्नमेंटों के एम्प्लायीज के साथ एक जैसा न्याय हो सके।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : यह कांग्रेस का समाजवाद है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : प्राडर, प्राडर।

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: Under our Constitution, there are two sets of Governments; one is the Central Government and the other is the State Government with different functions, with different obligations and with different duties, and for the purpose of discharging those duties, different sets of employees are kept; and there cannot be, in my most humble submission the same consideration given to the wages of both these parties without there being also an examination as to the onerousness of the duties and so on.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Have a national wage.

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: Those suggestions or recommendations will certainly be remembered.

Shri Banga: In view of the fact that all the organisations catering to the needs of the Central Government employees have been pressing,—whether you call it a wage board or a pay commission—for a reconsideration of their pay scales and allowances in order to enable them to keep pace with the rising spiral of prices, may I know whether the time has not

come for Government to reconsider the position, especially in view of the long duration that has elapsed between the last consideration and the present demand?

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: No; the consideration which has got to be given is to the rising spiral of prices that the hon. Member has spoken of, and, therefore, the question of neutralisation is the first question which has got to be considered. As I have already informed this House earlier and as many Members of this House know, we are considering that question. We have already neutralised the rise in the cost of living to a certain extent....

Shri A. P. Sharma: Only 75 per cent.

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: ...and as for the balance, we are having a second look into the matter. I have promised that before any final decision is taken I shall try and get the representatives of the employees to come and meet me.

Assistance to States

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*1015. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:**

Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Shri S. C. Samanta:

Shri Subodh Hansda:

Shri P. C. Borooah:

Shrimati Savitri Nigam:

Shri D. N. Tiwary:

Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have indicated their inability to give the promised Central assistance to the States for their schemes for the year 1966-67; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.