

Union Government has made any advance of money subsidy or any other grant towards meeting the expenses of supplying mid-day meals to the children in schools?

Dr. Sushila Nayar: To the best of my knowledge, the Central Government is giving some assistance for the Scheduled Castes children. I am afraid, I do not know the details of the financial arrangements between the States and the Education Ministry at the Centre.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : मध्याह्न जो भोजन दिया जाता है उस में बहुत सारी जगह पर अण्डे भी दिये जाते हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या ये दिये जाने चाहिये? क्या अण्डे लेना उनकी इच्छा पर निर्भर है या बलात् ये दिये जाते हैं?

अध्यक्ष महोदय . यह तो राय का बाँट है। श्री चौधरी।

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर आप पूछते कि क्या अण्डे दिये जाते हैं तब तो मैं कहता भी कि वह जवाब दें। लेकिन आपने तो बता दिया है कि अण्डे दिये जाते हैं।

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : मैंने यह भी पूछा है कि क्या उनकी इच्छा पर ये दिये जाते हैं या बलात् दिये जाते हैं।

डा० सुशीला नायर : कई जगह पर अण्डे दिये जाते हैं। लेकिन किसी को मजबूर करके अण्डे दिये जाते हैं, ऐसी बात नहीं है।

श्री चंद्रमणिलाल चौधरी : इन मासूम बच्चों को किन किन सूबों में आपने भोजन देने का इंतजाम किया है? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि ढाई सौ और पीने तीन सौ रुपया महीना पाने वाले जो सरकारी

कर्मचारी हैं उनके बच्चों को भी आपने इन-क्ल्यूड किया है या नहीं किया है?

मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि किसी खास वर्ग के बच्चों के लिए आपने यह सब इंतजाम किया है तो यह अच्छी बात नहीं है मेरी दृष्टि में हर कोम के लोग इस समय मजबूर हैं चाहे वे ब्राह्मण हों या किसी भी जात के हों।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तो आपने बहुत कुछ कह दिया है। नैस्ट वरैश्चत।

Increments to Employees in form of Defence Savings Certificates

*1397, **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** Will the Minister of Planning and Social Welfare be pleased to state:

(a) whether the state Governments have been advised by him to examine the scope for paying all or part of increments to Government employees in the form of Defence Savings Certificates;

(b) whether big business houses and commercial establishments have been persuaded to adopt a similar policy; and

(c) what has been the response and, to what extent, effective mobilisation of the savings has been facilitated?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was suggested to State Governments that an effort should be made to persuade big business houses and commercial establishments to adopt a policy similar to the one that may be adopted by State Governments.

(c) Information has been asked for from the State Governments.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: Apart from the big establishments and commercial houses, may I know whether the Government has tried to enlist the support of the Trade union organisations of all India character to see that

their organisations are also set in motion to mobilise savings?

Shri L. N. Mishra: A special appeal was made to the trade union organisations long ago. But I may say one thing in this regard. The response to this appeal has not been encouraging from any quarter.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: May I know the total amount of savings that has been augmented by Government after the introduction of the new scheme?

Shri L. N. Mishra: It is almost insignificant.

Shri A. P. Sharma: When Government needed money for the defence fund it was suggested by the INTUC that the provident fund share of the employees should be increased by two per cent and that it will bring about Rs. 80 crores a year. Have Government given consideration to this suggestion? If so, what is the reaction of Government and what steps have been taken in this regard?

Shri L. N. Mishra: This question should properly be directed to the Ministry of Labour. I know that such a suggestion was made. Perhaps, Government have not come to any decision.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Is it not a fact that all the Central trade union organisations, including INTUC, have expressed the view to the Government that because the overwhelming majority of employees in this country do not get a minimum need-base wage or salary the increments or allowances to them cannot be or should not be frozen and given in the form of certificates? Instead of that, have Government considered that a part of the salaries of high-paid officers should be given in the form of certificates?

Shri L. N. Mishra: The second part of the question is a very good sugges-

tion. Regarding the first part, it is one of the main reasons why the progress has not been encouraging.

Shri Kapur Singh: Are these increments to which long-term employees become entitled related to living expenses of those employees or to the marginal incomes that can be saved?

Shri L. N. Mishra: It is related to saving, but unfortunately, as the hon. Member knows, due to rising prices it is not very easy to have savings out of this.

Shri P. Venkatasubbajah: Is the non-existence of encouragement in Government agencies regarding putting the money in Defence Savings Certificates due to the lack of enthusiasm among the Government or due to the lack of encouragement or enthusiasm among the employees?

Shri L. N. Mishra: If you permit me, I would state the three reasons that have been reported to us. Firstly, most of the Government employees as well as the bulk of the employees of the large business houses and establishments in the private sector are all covered by the Compulsory Provident Fund Scheme; secondly, large number of employees also contribute towards life insurance; and, thirdly, because of the rise in prices it is not very convenient for them to have savings at this stage

Violation of Gold Control Rules

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*1399. **Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:**
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases of violations of the Gold Control Rules detected so far;

(b) the nature of violations; and

(c) the* action taken against the offenders?

*Answer to Part (c) was not read. However, the information is mostly covered by the answers to supplementaries on the question.