

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I did not catch the answer.

Mr. Speaker: That the question was about the prisoners that are there and not about the general question of the activities of the Nagas that are going on there.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I submit, Sir, in all humility that I asked a question about this particular type of activity only and not beyond that.

Mr. Speaker: Even then, if a question is specific, about a particular fact we will have to confine ourselves to that fact alone and not go further and wider because then perhaps we will be entering into fields that....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Do not collateral matters arise?

Mr. Speaker: Then he will leave that to me, when that arises and when that does not.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: We are in your hands.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that the Naga hostiles are demanding ransom through different channels for the release of these IAF men in custody; if so, why is it, since ransom is paid against war hostages also, that the Government has not explored this possibility of getting their release?

Shri Krishna Menon: It is against public policy to ransom prisoners in that way.

Shri Hem Barua: I did not hear.

Mr. Speaker: It is against public policy to pay ransom.

Shri Daji: Sir, I do not want to refer to any vague report published in any newspaper, but I would like to know whether the Government has read the report on the Press Conference with the Commandant of the area saying that the IAF officers held by the Naga hostiles have been lodged in the Burmese area? This is the

Press Conference by the Commandant of that area. If that is so, may I know whether the Government has assured itself of the truth of this and what steps are being taken with the Burmese Government to see that our IAF men are not held in the Burmese area?

Shri Krishna Menon: Sir, I think, I mentioned this, that we received a signal from the Military Attache in Rangoon which informed us that our Embassy had received an unconfirmed report that these Naga hostiles have released our IAF officers in Burmese territory, we sought confirmation on that from the Burmese Government but there is no confirmation. These Naga hostiles put out these various stories in order to confuse us.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Nambiar: May I put a supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: I have just sought the indulgence of the House that wrongly or rightly when I pass on to the next question, no attempt should be made to drag me back. Now Shri S. M. Banerjee.

Increase in D.A. of Government Employees

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*89.	{	Shri Nambiar:
		Shri S. M. Banerjee:
		Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
		Shri P. C. Borooah:
		Shri Raghunath Singh:
		Shri Balkrishna Wasnik:
		Shri Basappa:
		Shri B. C. Seth:
		Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 79 on the 15th March, 1982 and state:

(a) whether Dearness Allowance in respect of Central Government Employees has been increased; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Namblar: May I know whether it is a fact that there was a proposal to pay Rs. 7.50 nP as the minimum rate of increase in dearness allowance to those who were receiving a salary of Rs. 150 and less?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: The proposal already announced makes provision for the payment of Rs. 15 as dearness allowance to those who draw Rs. 150 or less. I am not aware of any proposal as mentioned by the hon. Member.

Shri Namblar: My question relates to the increase of the dearness allowance by Rs. 7.50 nP; that is to say, the present dearness allowance of Rs. 10 plus another Rs. 7.50 nP, making a total of Rs. 17.50 nP. May I know whether there was any such proposal and, if so, why it was given up?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: The proposal as it stands today gives relief to the extent of 75 per cent of the increase in cost of living. The original understanding was that only 50 per cent neutralisation of the increase in cost of living will be given. Now Government has increased it to 75 per cent.

Shri Nath Pai: The dearness allowance announced by the Finance Ministry, as the Finance Minister is well aware, does not fully compensate for the rise in the cost of living, though the main object of the Pay Commission's recommendation was that the dearness allowance given should compensate fully for the rising cost of living. Are the Government contemplating some other steps, if not monetary benefit to the employees?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): As the Pay Commission did not contemplate full compensation for the rise in the cost of living, the statement made by the

hon. Member is not a correct statement. It is never done anywhere. Nowhere is full compensation given for increase in cost of living. We have given 75 per cent, which is a very liberal allowance. There is no other proposal for giving any further benefit.

श्री प्रकाश बीर झाली : बम्बई और कलकत्ता में सरकारी कर्मचारियों को महंगाई भत्ता दिया जाता है उसके मुकाबले में दिल्ली के सरकारी कर्मचारियों को महंगाई भत्ता दिया गया है उसका स्तर कितना है ? यदि उससे कुछ कम है तो क्यों ?

श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा : जब से दिल्ली ए० क्लास शहर माना गया है तब से उनमें कोई तफरक नहीं है । एक ही तरह से उन लोगों को रखा गया है ।

Shri Nath Pai: May I, with your permission, ask the Finance Minister one question arising out the reply which he gave? Since with the implementation of every successive Plan there will be a further rise in the cost of living index in the country, are we to infer from the reply he gave that there shall be a progressive deterioration in the real earnings of the employees, because the Government are not prepared to compensate them fully? In that case, every successive year there will be a further decline in their real earnings.

Shri Morarji Desai: I am not prepared to go into conjectures.

Shri Nath Pai: This is arising out of the reply which he gave.

Mr. Speaker: It is not a definite information that is sought. He wants to know what would happen if something happens.

Shri Nath Pai: May I seek your protection, Sir? The whole question arises because of the rise in the cost of living index, which is rising after every Plan. So, I want to know . . .

Mr. Speaker: He should formulate a question on the lines which he just mentioned.

Shri Namblar: May I know whether there was not a demand or request from the employees that the arrears should be paid from the date of increase of the cost of living, or July 1960 when the general strike took place?

Shri Morarji Desai: It is the decision of the Government to pay it from the time it is declared.

Incidence of Tax Evasion

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*90. { **Shri Nath Pai:**
 { **Shri P. C. Borooah:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidence of tax evasion has been on increase since 1950;

(b) if so, how much is the increase during the past twelve years; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to review the tax collecting machinery?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): (a) It is not possible to say.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Nath Pai: When the Government had availed themselves of the services of Professor Kaldor, he had pointed out in his report to the Government of India that tax evasion in this country was of a very substantial order and he had put the sum between Rs. 150 crores to 300 crores. It is a long time since this report was made available to the Government wherein there was also a recommendation on the steps to be taken to check this. The Government of India should be in a position to say something more than "It is not possible to say". Has there been any increase in the evasion of tax and has the Government succeeded in plugging the loopholes, as he has suggested?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Professor Kaldor's report was not a

dictum. He made an assessment in his report. It does not necessarily follow that we accept every line of that report or every word of that report. Secondly, no correct assessment of this can be made because statistics and other particulars are not available. But I must assure the hon. Member that the collections have improved very greatly due to the checks exercised and the improved methods employed by the Income-Tax Department.

Shri Nath Pai: Could she be so pleased as to tell the House whether during these three years there has been an improvement in real terms and not in such vague terms and, if so, what is the order of the improvement?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): The question of evasion is always a vague question. There cannot be a definite reply to a vague question. If evasion is found exactly it will not remain there.

Mr. Speaker: Now his question is whether there has been any improvement in the collection.

Shri Morarji Desai: That is what was said. That was replied to by my hon. colleague.

Mr. Speaker: That was only that there had been improvement. He wants to know to what extent.

Shri Morarji Desai: I will require separate notice for that.

Shri Hem Barua: In his speech on the interim budget the hon. Finance Minister said that the tax collection machinery had been considerably geared up—these were his words—to avoid tax evasion and that there had been better collection of revenue in the country. On what basis did the hon. Finance Minister come to that conclusion?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I give the figures of increased collection that we have made during the last ten years. Income-tax collection in