

Therefore, the proposals will never be finalised.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY:

Now, the elections will be only after 31/2 years. I assure that we are not going to have another committee at all. We are going to have only the meeting of the leaders of the Opposition before the end of the Session; perhaps towards the end of the Session or in the next Session we are going to come with a comprehensive Bill.

Dearness Allowance to Central Government Employees

*63 **SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:**
SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRI-
YAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Dearness Allowance instalments due for payment to the Central Government employees as on January 1, 1992;

(b) the reasons for not releasing the same;

(c) the number of Dearness Allowance instalments due for payment to the officers drawing basic pay above Rs. 3500/-; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b). As per existing instructions, an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance has become due w.e.f. 1.1.92 to all Central Government employees. This instalment will become payable only in April, 1992.

(c) and (d). The question of grant of additional instalment of Dearness Allowance due from 1.7.91 to employees drawing pay

above Rs. 3500/- p.m. is still under consideration of the Government.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, the salary of officials who draw a pay of Rs. 3,500/- and above appears to be a big amount. Is the Minister aware of the fact that these officials' take-home salary after deduction of Income-Tax will be less than the salary of an Upper Division Clerk? and if so, what are the steps being taken by the Central Government to avoid delay in making the payment of Dearness Allowances to these employees? Then, very often, the DA is merged with the GPF contribution in the case of officials drawing pay of Rs. 3,500/- and above. So, will the hon. Minister explain the rationale behind the move to pay less percentage of DA and merging it with the GPF contribution?

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: There is a writ petition in the court regarding the DA of the employees who are drawing pay of Rs. 3,500/- and above. One Shri V.K. Ahluwalia, an employee of Delhi High Court had gone to the court and the Government is constituting a committee in this regard. That committee will examine the entire issue because the DA is being asked by the employees of public sector undertakings also. The banks have a different way of giving DA. So, committee is being constituted by the Government.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the hon. Minister clearly state whether the Government is passing the buck to future Governments by way of accumulated commitments and interest payments? Will it not be feasible to pay the Dearness Allowances as and when they are due with Income Tax rebate atleast for that financial year during which they are paid?

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Their due will be paid with the pay of March and it will be paid in the month of April.

SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA: Sir, in the reply, the Minister has stated that an

additional instalment of Dearness Allowance has become due with effect from 1.1. 1992 to all Central Government employees and this instalment will become payable only in April, 1992. In want to know from the Government whether this amount will be paid in the form of Indira Vikas Patra or by cash.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: As I have already explained, the Government wants to have the committee to go into the entire issue and after the committee's recommendation reaches the Government, the Government will take a decision.

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government has any contemplation to freeze or impound dearness allowance; if so, from when?

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: The Government does not have such intention. The committee is being constituted. We are waiting for the Committee's report.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have gone to the other Question.

Cotton Export Policy

* 64 **SHRI ANBARASU ERA:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to review the policy of exporting cotton/cotton yarn;

(b) whether the prices of cotton/cotton yarn are increasing at present;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any decision has been taken to import cotton bales to meet the requirement of weavers;

(e) the names of countries from which these bales are likely to be imported; and

(f) the criteria laid down by the Government to distribute these items among the weavers with a view to save them from unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (f). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The prices of cotton/cotton yarn have maintained an upward trend during the current year.

(c) The main reasons for the upward trend in the prices of cotton/cotton yarn have been unexpected fall in the cotton production, low opening stock at the beginning of 1991-92 cotton season, increase in the cost of other inputs like power, fuel, etc.

(d) to (f). Modalities to import cotton for handloom weavers are being worked out.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Next to agricultural sector, handloom weavers form major chunk of the population. Handloom weavers are one of the most neglected lot in the population and they are undergoing worst sufferings. We are fully aware that mostly Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and backward class people earn their livelihood through handloom weaving.

Due to short supply of yarn and also due to hike in the price of yarn, they are not getting yarn in time and an alarming situation is created.

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether suitable measures are taken for regular supply of yarn to the weavers to save them from starving.