

indicate a decline of about 8.5% as compared to the corresponding period of previous year.

(c) Decline in traffic has not affected the operating income of Bombay Port Trust. However there has been a decline in the financial position of Bombay Dock Labour Board due to several factors including uneconomic labour practices and decline in bulk traffic. Cause wise allocation has not been done.

(d) Government have already offered a voluntary retirement scheme for Bombay Port Trust and Dock Labour Board workers in order to reduce the surplus staff and have also asked management & workers of Bombay Dock Labour Board to eliminate uneconomic practices to achieve financial viability. The question of any compensation being paid does not arise.

### **Rate of Inflation**

2574. SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the rate of inflation is on the rise, going by the All-India consumer price index for agricultural labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the position regarding the price index for industrial workers; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to keep the rate of inflation down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). The All-India Consumer Price Indices (CPI) for Agricultural Labourers and Industrial Workers along with rate of increase in these indices during the current financial year upto September, 1991 (latest available) are given below:

**STATEMENT**

Rate of Increase in All-India Consumer Price Indices during 1991-92

Sl. No.	Month	CPI for Agricultural Labourers (Base: 1960-61=100)	Rate of Increase during current financial year (%)	CPI of Industrial Workers (Base: 1982=100)	Rate of Increase during current financial year (%)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	April	853	-0.6	202	0.5
2.	May	854	-0.5	204	1.5
3.	June	876	2.1	209	4.0
4.	July	904	5.4	214	6.5
5.	August	936	9.1	217	8.0
6.	September	975	13.6	221	10.0

(d) The steps taken by the Government to bring down the rate of inflation include a substantial reduction in fiscal deficit, check on expansion of money supply to curb effective demand, more effective management of supply and demand of essential/sensitive commodities, streamlining of the Public Distribution System, providing incentives for higher production and savings, and strict action against hoarders and profiteers.

### Counter Trade Agreements

2575. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of counter trade commitments obtained against import of various canalised items through MMTC during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have faced any difficulty in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any policy on counter trade; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the list of items eligible for counter trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Counter trade against import of canalised items by MMTC during the last three years are as follows:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Counter trade Commitments (Rs. Crores)</i>
1988-89	52.68
1989-90	176.70
1990-91	295.90

(b) and (c). It is not always possible to build counter trade on all canalised imports especially in commodities which are in seller's markets or for which possibility of diversifying the sources of imports is limited.

(d) and (e). Counter trade arrangement are encouraged to increase exports of non-traditional and slow moving export items finalised from time to time.

### Additional Dearness Allowance to employees working in Tourist Centres

2576. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give additional dearness allowance to Central Government employees working in tourist centres in view of high cost of living there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to help these employees to tide over the increasing cost of living at these tourist centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (c). Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees is sanctioned with reference to the percentage increase in 12-monthly average of the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (General) Base 1960=100 over the average index of 608. The rates of dearness allowance for employees in different pay groups are uniform in all places in the country and do not depend on high cost of living or otherwise of any particular place. In view of the above, the question of compensating Central Government employees working in tourist centres over and above what is admissible at present does not arise.