

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

Committee with the Labour Minister as Chairman, whereby Rs. 2 per point increase with variable slab rate would be payable with effect from 1.1.1989. Another agreement reached in the special tripartite meeting was to lift the ban on wage revision negotiations in the Central Public Sector Undertakings and to direct the Public Sector Managements to commence negotiations with the workers organisation. The period of last wage agreement in all the Central Enterprises Expired in December, 1991.

Further an agreement was reached in the Indian labour Conference for introduction of a pension scheme for all employees.

Although tripartite agreements are considered sacred and binding, it is a matter of regret that no steps have yet been taken for implementing them in spite of repeated representation of the INTUC and assurances given by the Government, aggrieved by such inordinate delay on the part of the Government in the implementation of the agreement, INTUC has given a call for a token strike for one day on March 19, 1993 in all industries and services throughout the country.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take necessary steps forthwith for implementation of the agreements of the tripartite committees and also the Indian Labour Conference.

- (iii) **Need to provide support price for apple and other fruits in Himachal Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT
SULTANPURI(shimla): Mr. Deputy Speaker,

Sir, barren land in Himachal Pradesh has been converted into fertile land by planting fruit trees on it by the people of the State. Besides, in the fields also trees of mainly apples, peaches, mangoes, oranges, and lemons have been planted. The Central Government fixes support price for these fruits grown in other States of the country. Similarly, support price need be fixed for the fruits grown by the fruit growers in Himachal Pradesh. I would like to submit to the Central Government that this has not only checked soil erosion in Himachal Pradesh, but has also benefited farmers in the State.

I would like to request the Central Government to plant trees on the barren land in Himachal Pradesh to check soil erosion and to improve the lot of the farmers in the State. To encourage the farmers for planting trees, the Central Government should take steps to provide subsidy etc. to them. Support price for apple should be fixed at Rs.2.75 and reasonable support price for other fruits need be fixed.

- (iv) **Need to levy no Income Tax on instalment of Additional Dearness Allowance deposited in GPF of the employees.**

DR. LALBAHADUR RAWAL (Hathras): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, almost in all the States instalments of Additional Dearness Allowance, at par with the employees/officers of the Central Government, are paid to the employees. This payment is made on the basis of the Basic Pay. Payment of the Additional Dearness Allowance to the employees drawing more than Rs.3,500 per month as, Basic Pay, is not made in cash, but is deposited in the Contributory Provident Fund/General Provident Fund. This Additional Dearness Allowance is paid to the employees/officers to compensate for the

rise in the prices. Depositing this amount in the CPF/GPF defeats the purpose. Additional Dearness Allowance is included in the total taxable income of the officials and income tax is levied on it. Though as a matter of fact this amount has not reached the purse of the person concerned during that year.

Therefore, I would like to request the Central Government to pay the instalments of the Additional Dearness Allowance in cash to the wage earners to compensate them for the rise in the prices or if it is not feasible for the Government to pay in cash the instalments of the Additional Dearness Allowance, being deposited in CPF/GPF, should be fully exempted from the income tax.

[English]

(v) **Need to restore earlier pattern of Central Contribution to Sugar Development Fund in respect of Maharashtra.**

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Sir, the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Central Government for maximum assistance from the Sugar Development Fund. Earlier, the factories used to contribute 10 per cent of expenditure for modernising their plants while remaining 90 per cent of the expenditure used to come from Fund. This pattern has recently been changed and the factories have to contribute 35 per cent of the expenditure and 65 per cent of the expenditure has to come from the Sugar Development Fund. Many factories find it difficult to raise 35 per cent.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to restore the earlier pattern and also to introduce incentive schemes so as to boost the working performance of sick units.

(vi) **Need to lift ban on export of Sandal Wood**

DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM (Tiruchengode): Sir, sandalwood is exclusively bestowed on Indian soil in forest belt of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka while some quantity keeps growing in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. In Tamil Nadu, the amount earned from sandalwood now is nearly 50 per cent of the State Forest Department's revenue. The revenue realised in 1991 was Rs.22.99 crores on auction sale of 10.12 M.T. of sandalwood. Stock of 2,500 M.T. of sandalwood got accumulated awaiting sale in 1991-92 and a similar precarious position obtains as regards deals in sandalwood in all forms, including logs and billers by Government of India, Tamil Nadu hopes to compete on a global scale to get a competitive price for sandalwood.

If total lifting of ban is not possible now, at least export licence may be given to qualified firms.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take urgent steps in this matter.

(vii) **Need to expedite the Construction work of Railway Over bridge at Arakonam, Tamil Nadu**

SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakonam): Sir, Arakonam railway junction in Tamil Nadu can be connected with Calcutta-Delhi on one side, Kanyakumari and Madurai on the other, Mangalore Port on the West Coast and Madras Port and some other areas on the remaining side.

Three years ago, the Union Government had sanctioned a railway overbridge with the consent of the Tamil Nadu