

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN : I am rising on a point of order. As per the records of the House, on suggestion has been made. (Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Don't record. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is no point of order. You must point out the rule or law that is breached.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad) : Under Rule 352, a Member while speaking shall not (i) refer to any matter of fact on which a judicial decision is pending—that does not apply here—(ii) make a personal charge against a member. During the tumult and the shouting that was going on . . . (Interruptions) I heard a Member on the opposite side—I do not know who—call@ (Interruptions) If it has gone on record, it should be expunged.

MR. SPEAKER : If it is there, I shall expunge it and any other direct expression. (Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing any more unless there is a point of order. Don't record. (Interruptions)**

SHRI A.K. ROY : (Dhanbad) : On a point of information.

MR. SPEAKER : No point of information.

SHRI A.K. ROY : I had sought your permission to mention a serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER : I have not given you permission. Mr. Patel.

12.42 hrs.

STATEMENT *Re* GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO PAY THE SIXTH INSTALMENT OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN CASH

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Members will recollect that

I had made a statement in the House on the 27th February, 1978 announcing that Government has decided to sanction an additional (5th) instalment of dearness allowance to Central Government employees with effect from 1-1-1978. I had further stated that while agreeing to sanction an additional D. A. instalment, in keeping with the practice so far followed, the form and manner in which the instalment should be paid is a matter which Government proposes to discuss with the Staff Side of the National Council of the JCM.

Government has had discussions with the Staff Side and had suggested that the amount of D. A. to be released should be invested by the Staff Side wholly or partly in National Development Bonds. Government urged that while conceding the grant of D.A. in accordance with the current formula, it would be in the larger interest of the employees themselves to assist Government in controlling the price levels and reducing the money supply. The investments in National Development Bonds would also be a prudent saving for Government employees.

I regret that our efforts to persuade the employees to invest the D. A. release wholly or partly in National Development Bonds have not borne fruit. The representatives of the Staff Side indicated that they would consider investment of a portion of the D. A. in National Development Bonds provided Government was agreeable to some major changes in the formula itself including increase in the percentage of the neutralisation by half a per cent and merger of pay and D. A. upto 272 points at least for the purposes of calculating gratuity and retirement benefits. Government have indicated to the Staff Side that it would not be possible to link up these border issues. The entire question of wages and incomes is under Government's consideration. Government would have to take a view on the whole question of D. A. formulae operated in the country and therefore at this stage it would be undesirable to make any *ad hoc* changes. Nevertheless Government will continue to discuss these other matters with the Staff Side.

In these circumstances Government has decided that the additional (6th) instalment of dearness allowance should be paid to the employees in cash.

** Not recorded.

@ Expunged as ordered by the Chair.