

relief would come to Rs. 1,200 per month on the basis of the formula recommended by the Commission. After due consideration Government have decided that this may be raised to a total of Rs. 1,500 inclusive of relief upto index level 328. The pension of the Cabinet Secretary will be fixed on par with that of the Chiefs of Staff. It has also been decided that the pensions of Defence personnel will be enhanced. My colleague, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, will be making a separate statement giving details in this regard.

The improvements indicated in this Statement inclusive of those applicable to Defence personnel are estimated to cost Government approximately Rs. 500 crores up to the end of 1983-84. Of this, the expenditure during 1979-80 is expected to be Rs. 132 crores, including the arrears payable on account of the merger of dearness allowance with pay for retirement benefits from 30-9-1977 and the increase in the rates of dearness allowance with effect from 1-12-1978. This will be in addition to the normal expenditure of Rs. 59 crores per annum on account of the release of the seventh instalment of additional dearness allowance and the corresponding instalment of relief to pensioners. In this connection it may be noted that a total provision of Rs. 50 crores for one instalment of dearness allowance has already been made in the General and Railway Budgets for 1979-80.

I have no doubt that all sections of the House will appreciate the spirit of goodwill and cooperation in which this agreement of far-reaching significance has been reached with the staff side. I earnestly hope that this spirit of understanding and cooperation will continue and will enable Government to harness the talent, the energies and spirit of devotion and dedication to duty of all sections of Government employees and thus impart a new vigour and dynamism to the various programmes of socio-economic development on which we have embarked.

Madam Chairman, I have done.

15.22 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1979-80—
Contd.

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS—
Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kundu, you can continue.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Madam Chairman, I was referring to South East Asia. I have travelled enough in South East Asia. I will take hon. Members to far off places like Latin America and Carribean countries, I would like to inform the hon. Members that with the countries of Latin America and with the Carribean countries, India is in a very happy position and maintains very friendly relations. We also share with those countries common aspirations as members of the developing World and we are conscious of the need to build up on this basis a more fruitful and meaningful relations with them. I may also inform the House that we are going to hold a Conference of the Heads of the Missions of this region, which has been long since delayed.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): When?

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Sometime in early July. This region throws immense potential in the field of culture, economic trade; and cooperation with those countries is important and we are trying our best to see how best we can cultivate these cooperations to the best of satisfaction of both the countries.

Coming to the point about foreign publicity, I would like to briefly touch some of the points. The hon. member, Mr. Kanwar Lal Gupta referred to it in his speech a short-while ago. I had a feeling as if he says that we have been very weak and we have not been able to do enough. I will concede that there is a possibility of improving. Mr. Madhu Limaye is smiling and I think he will agree that there is a

possibility for improvement in this regard. But at the same time, I would not agree with Mr. Gupta. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Perhaps, he smiles when he disagrees. One does not know.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: I think, that is not deceptive. I would not agree with Mr. Gupta that we have been very weak and that we have not been able to do anything.

Now, I am grateful to the hon. Members for the keen interest they have taken in aspects of our foreign policy relating to the projection abroad of India's image. I would refer to at least to one publication, "Indian and Foreign Review". I have some copies with me. If the members will care to look at these copies, they will find a world of difference. It is cheap. It costs only Re. 1/-. Though it is a small work, still it is a major stride taken in the matter of pushing up our publicity abroad.

Besides this, the volume of publicity has been considerably expanded. Apart from a large number of documentaries on various facets of India's developmental and culture experience, a number of artistic feature films were acquired and sent abroad for special screening. I am glad to report to the House that these films have succeeded in generating a greater awareness of India and of its vibrant and culturally diverse society.

The hon. Members would be happy to know that about 240 foreign TV teams visited India to make documentaries on practically the entire spectrum of our national life—cultural heritage, sculpture, art, music, rural development, the dynamics of industrial growth, science and technology, the refreshing experience of democracy, the splendour of our mountains, the life-sustaining rivers of India, the spectacular variety of wild life and India's growing economic self-reliance. These were not introduced to the

people abroad. We have taken all the steps to introduce these things to the people abroad during a short spell of two years of our regime.

You know about the Chanchal Sarkar Committee's Report. We have put a senior and experienced officer to process the recommendations to see that as far as possible and as quickly as possible the recommendations of the Committee are adopted.

I had referred to earlier to the task we share in common of projecting the image of a democratic, resurgent and modern India. We take legitimate pride in being an open society, subject to the constant scrutiny of hundreds and thousands of visitors probing us through their eyes and cameras. Through all this flow of information, the image of a confident and self-reliant, democratic and resurgent, non-aligned, friendly and cooperative India has managed to reach the world at large. It is our hope that with the support, constructive criticism and guidance of this House, we would continue to reinforce this image of our nation in all parts of the world.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If I may interrupt you, do you wish to have some more time?

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: I want 2—3 minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House has to take up the Private Members' business at 3.30 P.M. You can continue on Monday.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: With your special prerogative, can you not give me a few minutes more?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have to take up the Private Members' business at 3.30 P.M.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: All right. I will take another 5 minutes on Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may continue on Monday.