

12.02 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE. REDUCTION IN
BASIC EXCISE DUTY ON SUGAR**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): Sir, the question of evolving a suitable sugar policy has been under consideration of the Government of India for some time. The cane growers have to be given a reasonable price and hence it is proposed to retain the minimum cane price paid to the growers at the existing level. It is also proposed to retain the detail price in the public distribution system at the present level of Rs. 2.15 per Kg. However, it is necessary to ensure a fair price to the producers as well in the interests of the industry as a whole. This makes it necessary, therefore, to reduce the duty leviable on sugar suitably. Government have accordingly decided to reduce the basic excise duty on free sale sugar from 37-1/2% to 20% *ad valorem*, and on levy sugar from 10% *ad valorem* to 7-1/2% *ad valorem*. There is no change in the additional excise duty either on free sale sugar or on levy sugar of 7-1/2% and 5% *ad valorem*, respectively.

I am also laying copies of Notifications Nos. 317/C.E. and 318/C.E. both dated 15th November, 1977 giving effect to the above changes on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: No question is allowed to be put on the statement made by the Minister.

12.05 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE: GRANT OF AN
ADDITIONAL INSTALMENT OF
DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EM-
PLOYEES**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): I beg to make the following statement:

The Government has decided to sanction an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees with effect from 1st of September, 1977. Government has taken this decision in the light of the fact that the 12-monthly index average at the end of August 1977 has crossed 312 points. The existing rates of dearness allowance are based on an index average of 304. Hence Government has recognised the need for the payment of an additional instalment in view of the rise in the 12-monthly index average.

It will be recollected that the Third Pay Commission had recommended to Government a formula of D.A. according to which increases at specific percentage rates would be given for every 8 point increase beyond 200 points in the 12-monthly average of the All India Consumer Price Index for industrial workers (1960-100). Nine instalments of Dearness Allowance were sanctioned according to this formula from time to time till the average index had reached 272 points. The Third Pay Commission had further recommended that when the average index crossed 272 points, Government should review the position and decide whether the D.A. scheme should be extended further or whether the pay-scales themselves should be revised. After the average index figure crossed 272 points, Government allowed on an *ad hoc* basis suitable increases in dearness allowance to mitigate the hardships caused to the employees. The total number of instalments of dearness allowance allowed by Government after the average level crossed 272 points was 5 (five). At the end of April, 1976, when the average index dropped below 312 points Government withdrew this 5th instalment, and the current D.A. is being paid on the basis of an average index figure of 304 points. In view of the fact that the average index figure has now clearly crossed 312 points Government feels that it is necessary to mitigate the hardships caused to the employees and has, therefore, agreed to concede an instalment of additional dearness allowance. This will impose an additional burden of Rs. 50 crores in a full year. The incidence during the current financial year will be Rs. 25 crores.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North-East): Sir, the House should congratulate the Government. (*interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Before you make a statement on a particular issue you should supply me a copy of the same in advance. Just now you have given a copy of this statement to me. As for the previous statement you made, a copy of it has been given to me earlier. But a copy of this statement had not been given to me earlier.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I am sorry. I will take note of it.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore): Sir, I want a clarification on this.

MR. SPEAKER: No question is to be put on the statement made by the Minister.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA:
Sir, you are not allowing even a clarification which is a very vital one on the statement made by the Minister. The Minister has made a statement..... We want to know whether the D.A. is with retrospective effect or not. This is a very simple clarification. He can answer this.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The very first sentence of my statement says that it is with effect from 1st September, 1977.' 'With effect from 1st September..... That was the very first sentence.'

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM (Tiruchirapalli): I have given notice, not on this statement but about the earlier statement. I want to submit that the Finance Minister has given relief only to the mill-owners; that was wrong; his action was not going to benefit the cane growers or the consumers. The mill-owners are already fleecing the consumers and the cane growers and now his statement also gives relief only to them. I wanted to raise a discussion that; I have given notice. Please allot some time for discussing that matter.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be considered; all notices will be considered.

12.11 hrs.

RE: MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT
—Contd.

REPORTED ASSAULT BY R.S.S. WORKERS ON SHRI DAMODARAN NAIR, A GUIDE AND GANDHI SMRITI—contd.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K. Lakkappa, Shri Vasant Sathé and Shri C. M. Stephen Members of Lok Sabha, had each of them given notice for adjournment motion on the same subject.

The Adjournment motion of Shri K. Lakkappa reads as under:

"The recent attack and assault by RSS hooligans on Shri Damodar Nair a guide at Mahatma Gandhi Smriti Nidhi."

The Adjournment motion of Shri Vasant Sathé reads as under:

"Recent Assault by RSS Workers on Shri Damodar Nair—a guide at Gandhi Smriti for quoting Shri Mowarji Desai."

The Adjournment motion of Shri C. M. Stephen reads as follows:

The calculated persistent assaults on Shri Damodar Nair a guide, employed at the site of Gandhi Samarak Samiti by persons alleged as RSS elements for the reason that he explains to the visitors. The fact of shooting down Mahatma Gandhi by Nathu Ram Godsey and non-availability of police protection for his security resulting in serious inconvenience and sense of insecurity for visitors to the premises of Gandhi Samarak Samiti."

On an examination of these motions I came to the conclusion that there was no justification to adjourn the business of the House on the basis of the above motions. Adjourning the listed business of the House is a serious matter. Every adjournment motion has an element of censure of the government for either doing something wrong or for any serious neglect of duty. The motions made did not indicate any such act or omission on the part of the government. Hence I have withheld my consent to the motions in question. Even Shri Stephen's motion did not indicate how the government was required to give police protection to the guard. I have heard the movers of the motion, the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and some other Members. I have come to the conclusion that there is no ground to revise my decision. It is well accepted proposition that an adjournment motion is permitted only when there is reason to criticise the government on some substantial and relevant ground. Adjournment motion is not a trifling matter; it has serious consequences. The Government had no responsibility in the matter referred to in the motions. It is not proper for me to express any opinion on the merits of the case. Suffice it to say that allegations made in these motions do not afford a basis for adjournment of the business of the House. Hence I decline to revise my earlier decision. At the same time I have allowed a call attention motion given notice of by Mr. Hitendra Desai.

श्री गोरी शंकर राय (गाजीपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। जब कोई काम-रोको प्रस्ताव सदन के समक्ष उपस्थित होता है, तो आप से यह अपेक्षा की जाती है कि आप उस पर तुरन्त अपना फैसला दे दें। यदि उसे प्राइमरी फेसी एविटेंस के लिए टाला जाये, तो उस की धरोखी खरम हो जाती है। जहाँ तक छाप के कलिय