

away. On inspection, this object was found to be a coconut shell wrapped in a plastic cover and secured with cello-tape. It was suspected to be a bomb. The person, who had thrown the bomb, was chased upto Windsor Place, where he was joined by another person having a cycle and both of them escaped.

A case u/s 447, IPC has been registered in this connection and is under investigation. The suspected explosives was de-activated by being put in water. It did not have any fuse or initiation device. However, the opinion of the Explosive Expert is being obtained.

14 42 hrs

STATEMENT re. GRANT OF ADDITIONAL DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): Mr Speaker, Sir, in response to the Calling Attention Notice tabled by Shri S. M. Banerjee and others regarding the grant of dearness allowance to employees of Central Government, I had made a statement in the House on 6th December, 1974. I had stated at that time that the Government hoped to be able to take a decision on the dearness allowance payable to its employees in the light of all considerations. I had occasion to spell out in some detail these considerations in the course of my replies to the points raised by the Hon'ble Members. I am however, now making a further statement in deference to your wishes as indicated in the House on the 18th.

Government are fully aware of the hardship caused to all sections of Government employees by the rise in prices. It was this awareness that had led Government to initiate several measures in recent months to arrest the rising trend in prices. These

measures have already met with a measure of success. It is of the utmost importance that the recent welcome change in price trends is maintained and further improved upon.

It cannot be denied that successive increases in dearness allowance of Government employees, though justified by rise in prices, have eroded substantially the resources for development. The grant of dearness allowance to Central Government employees has also repercussions on State Governments. Many of the schemes which are crucial to the growth of our economy form part of State Plans. The impact of our decisions in regard to dearness allowance on State finances cannot be completely overlooked. We are now engaged in a detailed assessment of the resources. Decisions on dearness allowance will be taken soon after this exercise is completed.

The welfare of its employees, particularly the lower paid employees, is of special concern to Government. It is this concern that had in fact led Government to improve upon the formula for grant of dearness allowance recommended by the Pay Commission. The House may rest assured that the decisions of government on dearness allowance will keep the genuine interests of the employees in view. I am confident that the Government employees also appreciate the severe strain under which our economy is functioning and would extend their wholehearted cooperation in finding solutions to the various problems particularly that of inflation facing our country.

SEVERAL HON MEMBERS: What is this?

SHRI S. M BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, I rise on a point of order.

When we made a statement in this House with your permission under Rule 377 and also during the course of the debate on the Supplementary

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

Demands for Grants which were being discussed, the hon. Minister of State for Revenue and Expenditure, Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that this would be replied to or that the matter would be brought to the notice of his senior colleague, the Cabinet Minister and that he would make a statement thereon and he mentioned nothing more than what has been mentioned in the reply to the call attention motion a reference to which has been made by my hon. friend, Shri C. Subramaniam.

Sir, we have made it abundantly clear that we were not interested in hearing from him to what difficulties there were or were not or this and that. We know after this Compulsory Deposit, law has been enacted and so many other so-called anti-inflationary measures were brought, the prices have gone up and that was the reason why they were entitled to another instalment of DA upto October 1964 four instalments have already fallen due. All their talk of curbing the prices is simply to hood-wink the people. You know the prices have gone up. My point of order is this. We wanted only an assurance from him. Let him say that they will not give DA to the Central Government employees. But what is the use of freezing indirectly giving the hope to the employees that they would be entitled to it? We wanted a definite assurance from him whether they will pay the four instalments or whether, according to the information available to us they are going to freeze all the four instalments of DA. That was the matter. I want a straight answer from him—whether the DA that is due to the Central Government employees will be paid or not. I want a clear-cut reply.

श्री छटल बिहारी बाजवेंदी (स्वातियर) :
झाप को याद होगा, जब यह मामला उठा था तब मंत्री महोदय ने जो कुछ कहा था; आज भी वही कुछ कहा है, यह पूरा का पूरा

वह पहले भी कह चुके हैं कि देश का आर्थिक स्थिति गम्भीर है। हमारी मांग यह थी कि झाप दो टुक जवाब दें। क्या झाप नहंवाई मत्ता देने जा रहे हैं या नहीं देने जा रहे हैं। आज भी जवाब दो टुक नहीं आया है ।

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र (इलाहाबाद) :
दने जा रहे हैं तो कब दने जा रहे हैं ।

श्री छटल बिहारी बाजवेंदी : यह भी लाइसेंस स्कैंडल जैसा मामला है ? क्या साफ जवाब नहीं दे सकते हैं ?

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) :
जाड़े का मौसम है ? कर्मचारियों को गर्म कपड़े सिलवाने हैं । वे परेशान हैं ।

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Ausgram). We want to know whether the Central Government is prepared to sanction the four instalments of DA that have fallen due to the 28 lakhs Central Government employees. If not, we, the Opposition Parties, have to take some decision against this anti-employees and anti-working class attitude of the Government not only in this House but outside also. You are forcing all the officers and employees of the Central Government to launch a movement, and as a result the Government work will come to a standstill. You are provoking the employees in this situation. You are responsible for that. Please bear it in mind. (Interruptions).

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I have categorically stated that a decision on DA will be taken soon after this exercise is completed.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: When?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Very soon.

SHRI JYANESWAR MISRA: 'Very soon' means what?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipur): I want to ask the Minister one thing only. According to the law, they can freeze or impound half of this DA which is due to the employees. Are they not now trying by executive action to impound the whole thing? I think by the time they take a decision, the sixth instalment will become necessary.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: No such decision has been taken. I have already stated that we are still to consider the matter and take a decision and that can be taken only after we make an exercise of our resources position.

1445 hrs.

STATEMENT re. PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF DELHI UNIVERSITY ACT

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 28 Prof. S. Nurul Hasan.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): Sir, I beg to lay a statement regarding proposed amendment of the Delhi University Act.

STATEMENT

In reply to Unstarred Question No. 3691 on December 9, 1974, I had, *inter alia*, stated that it was proposed to introduce a Bill to amend the Delhi University Act in the current session of Parliament.

I would like to inform the House that in spite of Government's best efforts, it has not been possible to finalise legislative proposals for amendment of the Delhi University Act, and bring them before Parliament

during this session. There are several complicated and Constitutional issues involved, particularly in view of the latest judgement of the Supreme Court in the writ petition filed by Ahmedabad St. Xavier College Society and others against the State of Gujarat and others, which require careful examination. The new Vice-Chancellor could take charge of his office only in the second week of this month and has since then been meeting the representatives of teachers. As it is essential to have his views also, I have been holding discussions with him.

I can assure the House that every effort is being made to complete this work expeditiously so that a Bill may be introduced in the Parliament.

1445-1/2 hrs.

STATEMENT re. DELHI DRAMATIC PERFORMANCES BILL

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 29 Prof. S. Nurul Hasan.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): Sir, I beg to lay a statement in response to the matter raised by Shri Madhu Limaye in the House regarding recommendation of the President for introduction of the Delhi Dramatic Performances Bill given notice of by him on the 12th November, 1974.

STATEMENT

In connection with the Point of Order raised by Shri Madhu Limaye regarding the delay in obtaining President's recommendations for the consideration of the Delhi Dramatic Performances Bill, 1974, the notice of his