

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I wanted to raise this point of order. Many people know it outside. It is only the Parliament that has been reduced to post-mortem house. Everything is discussed outside.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): He has not put the Call Attention notice. How can the Minister reply to this?

12.16 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO RAISE DEARNESS ALLOWANCE OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"Government's refusal to raise dearness allowance in respect of Central Government employees in spite of average rise of ten points in the cost of living index."

Sir, you may now give a ruling on my point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Not now.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): Sir, I had informed the House on the 25th of May, 1967 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 355, that before reviewing the rates of dearness allowance of Central Government employees on the present occasion, Government wished to take into account the recommendations of the Gajendra-gadkar Commission which had been asked to go into the principles that should govern the grant of dearness allowance to Central Government employees in future. The Commission's report has since been received on

the evening of 30th May and is under study. Some more time will be needed before decisions on the Commission's recommendations can be announced. However, an assurance was given to representatives of the staff who met the Expenditure Secretary on 5th May that whatever decisions are taken would be given effect to retrospectively from 1st February, 1967 when the 12-monthly average of the All-India Working Class Consumer Price Index number had gone up by 10 points since the last revision in the rates of Dearness Allowance. A similar assurance has also been given on 30th May in the meeting of the National Council of the Joint Consultative Machinery for Central Government employees.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Before putting the question, I want to know....

Mr. Speaker: Please put your question and get the information to the extent it comes.

श्री मधु लिवडे (मुंबई): इतना उन से पूछ लिया जाय कि गजेंद्रगडकर कमिशन की रपट आज सभापटल पर आ रही है या नहीं ?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want only one confirmation whether whatever has appeared in the newspaper is correct or not.

Mr. Speaker: You put that question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Why should I waste my question on that?

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether what has appeared in the papers is correct or not.

श्री मधु लिवडे : टेबुल पर उसे रखेंगे ?

Shri Morarji Desai: I have received only two copies. They are required to be printed. Therefore, I put them here. I am getting them printed as

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soon as possible. I have not been able to supply copies to the members of the Cabinet. Therefore, it is not possible for the Cabinet to consider it.

श्री मधु लिखड़े : झखबार वालों को वह पहले ही मिल गयी तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह उन्हें कहां से मिली ? आपसे मिली या गजेन्द्रगडकर साहब से मिली ?

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : आप की बुद्धि जैसा आपको मझाये वैसे आप मानें । मैं क्या कहूँ कि किसने बताया ? बाकी जो यह झखबार में आया है वह घोर जो आप समझ रहे हैं वह भी ठीक नहीं है ।

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, my Call Attention notice had nothing to do with the Gajendragadkar Commission. That is a separate question. My Call Attention notice was about the failure of the Government to raise the dearness allowance of the Central Government employees even after the average rise of ten points in the cost of living index. I may add that when the recommendation of the Second Pay Commission was accepted, the late lamented Prime Minister Nehru said, "This tantamounts to an award." That was accepted by the Government. They are morally committed—socially, they may not be—to accept that Report.

Now, the ten points rise in the cost of living index was reached in February, 1967 and as a result of that, having nothing to do with the Gajendragadkar Commission, 22 lakhs of Central Government employees were entitled, genuinely and legitimately, for an increase in the dearness allowance without any further reference to the Gajendragadkar Commission. I want to know whether an attempt is being made to delay and freeze the dearness allowance in the name of accepting the recommendations of the Gajendragadkar Commission that it has not been raised in the

month of March or April or even May. Will he wait for an all-India agitation?

Shri Morarji Desai: I do not know how much concerned the hon. Member is with the moral question . . .

Shri Vasudevan Nair (Paermade): That is your monopoly.

Shri Morarji Desai: That is the monopoly of the person who puts the question, not mine. . . . (Interruption).

Shri Nambtar (Tiruchirapalli): He represents the Central Government employees.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Myself and my son have moral value.

Shri Morarji Desai: I am accepting it; I am not rejecting it; I have not said that you do not believe in it. But the question has been replied to that when the Government decides this, it cannot decide unless the Gajendragadkar Commission which was appointed sometime ago on the same question gives its finding. Then again, we have also promised the Chief Ministers of the States that we will consult them before we decide. Therefore, this takes time. We had to wait for the Commission's report and that is why we have waited. But we have also said that whatever may be the delay in announcing our decision, it will have retrospective effect from 1st February, 1967. I do not see why the hon. Member should be exercised over this.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: He has not followed my question.

Mr. Speaker: You may put your second question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: He has not followed me, Sir. You please try to follow. My question was this. This Government is committed to the recommendation of the Second Pay Commission regarding dearness al-

lowance. If there is a rise of 10 points in the cost of living index, they should revise the dearness allowance. Despite our objection to the 10-point formula, we accepted it under the circumstances. Now Government wants to wriggle out of it; they want to shatter the hopes of the Central Government employees by bringing in the Gajendragadkar Commission. This has nothing to do with Gajendragadkar Commission. There is a 10-point rise in the cost of living index due to the failure of the Government to hold the price line. I want a straight answer to my question.

Mr. Speaker: He has answered that, with retrospective effect, it will be given.

Shri Morarji Desai: I am always given to giving straight answers, which perhaps does not suit the hon. Member. There is no question of not being straight in this matter. It is the right of Government to consider all the conditions as they arise and take decisions and I do not think that Government can give up that obligation. That is what the Government is doing.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (देहरादून) : डिपरनेस फ्लॉइंस बढ़ता नहीं है और प्राइसेज बढ़ जाती हैं। क्या सरकार कोई ऐसा इन्तजाम करेगी कि जब तक डिपरनेस फ्लॉइंस न बढ़े तब तक प्राइसेज न बढ़ें ?

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : सरकार के हाथ में ऐसा इन्जाम होता तो सरकार जरूर ऐसा करती ।

श्री यशपाल सिंह : सरकार के हाथ में नहीं है क्योंकि वह दुर्बल है ।

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : आप उस को रास्ता बताए हैं ।

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu (Diamond Harbour): The announcement of the Railway and General Budgets has added fuel to the fire. The cost of living

of the common man has gone up. The average man in government employment cannot have two square meals a day and during the third and the last weeks of the month, he does not have money for doing his minimum marketing. The Government has accepted the recommendations of the previous Commission and that is still in vogue. Until it is replaced by any other acceptable formula, why does the Government not implement the formula that is now in vogue and allow the benefits to the common man in government service?

Shri Morarji Desai: It does not require any further reply.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: What is the answer, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: He says that he has already answered.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: I have wasted my energy.

Shri Hem Barua (Mangaldai): Do you make provision for members wasting their energy?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Pattiam Gopalan.

Shri P. Gopalan (Tellicherry): Since the basic concept behind granting D. A. to employees is to compensate for the fall in the purchasing power of rupee which directly affects the low-income groups and since the phenomenal growth in the rise in prices is mainly due to the monetary and fiscal policies adopted by the Government and since the phenomenon is an all India problem which is proved from the fact that the upward trend in the cost of living indices is more or less uniform throughout India, may I know whether it is not the responsibility of the Central Government to assist the State Governments to meet the extra expenditure incurred by them in giving increased dearness allowance to its employees? Furthermore, I want to know whether the Fourth Finance Commission had recommended that a proper procedure should be evolved to assist the State Governments to

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meet the extra expenditure, the unforeseen expenditure, that is, the expenditure which is unforeseen at the time of the preparation of the forecast, and if so, whether the request of the Kerala Government for assistance to them to meet the unforeseen expenditure due to the enhancement of dearness allowance to its employees has been complied with by the Central Government.

Shri Morarji Desai: The reply to the last question is in the negative, namely that this Government will not give anything towards the disbursement of dearness allowance by the States to their employees. That is what has been made abundantly clear.

As regards the first part of the question, I do not accept that the rise in prices is due merely to the economic and fiscal policies of this Government.

Shri Banga (Srikakulam): Mostly.

Shri Morarji Desai: There are many causes for it.

Shri Banga: It is mostly due to that.

Shri Morarji Desai: It is not even 'mostly'. I do not accept it. But hon. Members can have a different view. If I do not quarrel with them, why should they quarrel with my view? We need not accept each other's view, and yet we need not quarrel.

Shri Nambiar: But he is controlling the purse.

Shri Morarji Desai: I do not control him. I do not control them. It is not a question of my controlling anybody. Because I control the purse, I have got to see that the purse is utilised properly in the interests of the hon. Members.

Shri K. K. Nayanar (Palghat): Though the hon. Minister is not accepting the basic reason for the increase in prices of commodities and food materials, practically after the budget proposal of the hon. Minister, the prices of food materials and other commodities have increased. May I know why Government have refused to come out with any kind of relief, despite their solemn commitment to revise the dearness allowance?

Mr. Speaker: He has answered that already.

Shri E. K. Nayanar: May I know whether it is correct or not that an informal proposal has been made by the commission to convert a good part of the dearness allowance increase into compulsory savings? May I know whether Government have agreed to raise the dearness allowance commitment automatically when there is a ten-point rise in the average consumer price index during a period of twelve months?

Shri Morarji Desai: All these will arise when Government come before this House with their decision.

Shri K. M. Abraham (Kottayam): In view of the statement made by the hon. Minister, may I know whether Government will take immediate steps so that the pay scales may be revised in consultation with the organisations of the Central Government employees?

Shri Morarji Desai: This question does not arise out of this, in my view.

Mr. Speaker: Now, Shri C. K. Chakrapani.

Shri C. K. Chakrapani (Ponnani): My question has been covered already.

Mr. Speaker: I am glad that the hon. Member has said so. Instead of getting the 'No' repeated, I am glad that

he has said that his question has been covered.

Shri Nambiar: There is no use in asking questions.

श्री मधु लिखये : मंत्री महोदय ने यह बतलाया अपने वक्तव्य में कि कर्मचारियों को मंहगाई भत्ता फरवरी से मिलना चाहिये था, लेकिन चूंकि गजेन्द्रगडकर कमीशन की रिपोर्ट नहीं पहुंची थी, उस वक्त इस लिये नहीं दिया गया। अब उन्होंने कहा है कि यह पिछली तारीख से दिया जायेगा। उसके बाद चार महीने हो गये हैं, फरवरी, मार्च, अप्रैल और मई, इस के बाद और कितने महीने लगेंगे, पता नहीं है।

यह पैसा आप को फरवरी में देना था जो आपने दिया नहीं और महीने तक आपने इस पैसे को अपने पास रखा, शायद छः महीने भी रखेंगे। इसका जो ब्याज या सूद होता है और जो सरकार को मिला है क्या उस ब्याज और सूद को कर्मचारियों को मंहगाई भत्ते के साथ दिया जाएगा ?

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : जी नहीं।

श्री मधु लिखये : इसको आप का जायेंगे ? जिस तारीख से देना चाहिये था उस तारीख को न दे कर अगर मंहगाई भत्ता बाद में दिया जाता है तो मजदूरों को उसका ब्याज मिलना चाहिये। उसको आप कैसे अपने पास रख सकते हैं ? इसका कोई उत्तर नहीं है।

Mr. Speaker: He said 'no'.

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Alipore): Since the Government are not bound to accept the recommendations of Shri Gajendragadkar and can neither reject

the whole report or modify it according to their own wish, may we at least have this much assurance from the Finance Minister that whatever decision may be taken in future, which decision will have retrospective effect from 1-2-67, at least what the employees were getting before 1-2-67 will not be cut down or retrenched?

Shri Morarji Desai: The hon. Member seems to be in a wonderland.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I take it as an assurance? I may be prepared to be in a wonderland....

Mr. Speaker: Shri Sondhi.

Shri M. L. Sondhi (New Delhi): In view of the fact that from February prices are admitted to have gone up by 10 points, since the last revision of dearness allowance, may I know whether the hon. Finance Minister remembers that one of his predecessors had assured this House as follows:

"So I can assure hon. Members that so long as I am here, I need not be goaded into taking any action. If the figures rise to that particular point, we will take whatever action is possible and appropriate according to the circumstances of the case".

Although there is some poetic justice in that that hon. Minister is not here, today, the sub-marginal living standards of the Central Government employees demand that the hon. Minister considers at least some measure of relief, because his Budget gave us hope that there is at least academic rethinking. Full subsidisation of food prices for the Government employees can be announced or at least some imaginative measure taken by which when the recommendations of the Gajendragadkar Commission are announced, at once the market forces do not take away what benefits and whatever increase they give. At least there should be some imaginative effort to tackle the problem.

Shri Morarji Desai: Government will do whatever they think reasonable and come before the House.

Shri M. L. Sondhi: My point is a basic one because it involves some reference to the actual conditions of the market where any benefit Government in their wisdom give is wiped out by the very disconcerting behaviour of our market forces.

श्री हुकम चन्द कल्लाथ (उज्जैन) : मंत्री लोग बाजार से सामान खरीद कर नहीं लाते हैं और अगर जा कर लायें तो इनको मालूम पड़े कि किम भाव पर वस्तुयें बिकती हैं। इनके नौकर ले घाने हैं।

श्री जावं करनैडीब (बम्बई-दलिय) : मंत्री महोदय ने अभी कहा है कि किसी भी राज्य सरकार को केन्द्र से महंगाई भत्ता राज्य सरकारों के कर्मचारियों को देने के लिए नहीं मिलेगा। कई दिनों से वित्त मंत्री इस बात को कहते आ रहे हैं और हर मीके पर इसको कहते हैं। अभी वित्त मंत्री जी ने यह भी एलान किया है कि गजेन्द्रगडकर कमिशन का जो एवार्ड है इस पर वह राज्य सरकारों में मनाह मंथिरा कर रहे हैं। एक तरफ तो वह कहते हैं कि राज्य सरकारों के कर्मचारियों को महंगाई भत्ता देने के लिए वह कोई मदद राज्य सरकारों की नहीं करेंगे और दूसरी तरफ इस कमिशन की रिपोर्ट पर वह राज्य सरकारों से मनाह मंथिरा की बात करते हैं, यह बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आई है। क्या सरकार बका बराब करने के लिए धार जैसा मधु निमये साहब ने कहा है सरकारी कर्मचारियों के पैके को और चन्द दिनों के लिए रोके रखने के लिए यह तरीका अपना रही है? अगर नहीं तो क्या वह अपनी इस भावत से मजबूर है कि बिना सहाई किए किसी चीज को सरकार कभी अपने कर्मचारियों को नहीं देना चाहती है? क्या सरकार यह चाहती है कि फिर एक बार सारे हिन्दुस्तान में सरकारी कर्म-

चारी भान्दोलन चलाने और उसी तरह से चलाने जैसे प्रलय प्रलय मूर्तों में चला या ?

श्री सिध नारायण (बस्ती) : चलाइये।

श्री जावं करनैडीब : उरुर चलाने में।

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : कोई भान्दोलन बाहर चले उसके पहले ही यहां चला दिया है, मैं क्या करूं। माननीय सदस्य की जो आपत्त हो, उनके जो विचार हों उनको बे रख सकते हैं। लेकिन मेरे ऊपर क्यों उनका आरोप करते हैं ?

एक बात का और उन्होंने जवाब मांगा है कि हम चीफ मिनिस्टरों से क्यों पूछते हैं ? इसलिए पूछते हैं कि सरकार ने वादा किया था सब चीफ मिनिस्ट्रों ने कि हमारा जब कोई इस मामले में कदम उठेगा तो उसको उठाने से पहले हम उन में मनाह मुंथिरा करेंगे।

श्री मधु निमये : सभी प्रश्नों पर ?

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : इसी प्रश्न पर।

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): I take it from the Finance Minister, and now the Deputy Prime Minister also, that the Government stands by the award of the Second Pay Commission and that there will be neutralisation of the rise in the price index to the extent of ten points.

Shri Morarji Desai: I never said anything.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I also take it from the hon. Finance Minister that whatever the Gajendragadkar Commission may say, the Government of India will stand by the Second Pay Commission. I take it from the Finance Minister that the decision will be effective from 1st February, 1967. If as may I know what stands in the way of the hon. Finance Minister giv-

ing some ex-gratia payment to these hard pressed Central Government employees which may be offset against the rise in dearness allowance?

Shri Morarji Desai: What stands in the way is the incorrectness of the assumptions of my hon. friend that I have already said that all these things will be done. I never said all these things will be done. I have only said that the Government will take into consideration all these matters and will do whatever is reasonable. That is what Government has said.

12.37 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

COST ACCOUNT RECORDS (CYCLES) RULES

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Cost Account Records (Cycles) Rules, 1967, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 311 in Gazette of India dated the 11th March, 1967, under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-496/67].

REPORTS OF SINGARENI COLLIERIES COMPANY & COAL BOARD

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri F. C. Sethi): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited for the year 1965-66, along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, under Sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956.

(ii) Review by the Government on the working of the above Company. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-497/67].

- (2) A copy of the Annual Report of the Coal Board, Calcutta for the year 1964-65. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-498/67].

REPORT ON ACCOUNTS OF TEXTILE COMMITTEE ETC.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Quareishi): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Audit Report on the Accounts of the Textile Committee for the year 1965-66, under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Textiles Committee Act, 1963. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-499/67].
- (2) A copy of the Textiles Committee (Amendment) Rules, 1967, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 438 in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 1967, under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Textiles Committee Act, 1963. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-500/67].
- (3) A copy of Notification No. S.O. 1722 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 1967, under sub-section (2) of section 18A of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-501/67].
- (4) A copy of the Textiles (Production by Powerlooms) Control Amendment Order, 1967, published in Notification No. S.O. 1475 in Gazette of India dated the 29th April, 1967, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-502/67].
- (5) A copy of the Central Silk Board (Amendment) Rules, 1967, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 740 in Gazette of India, dated the 20th May,