

that it cannot be made applicable to the Dearness Allowances.

The Hon. Member would be aware that even in regard to the setting up of the Pay Commission, certain States have made a peculiar arrangement that at the interval of every five year automatically there will be a pay revision. And once you do it in one area, it will have its repercussion in the adjacent areas. And if you do in the State Sector, it will have its repercussion in the Central Sector; and once you do in the central sector, it has its repercussions in the State sector. Some of these matters will be looked into by the Pay Commission. And in respect of certain other matters, particularly in the working out of the mechanism through which we can have wider consultation between the States and the Centre to assess the implication and impact of any such decision, I feel something can be done.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister in his Statement and the Hon. former Finance Minister, Shri Satish Agarwal, in his supplementary, have highlighted the question. So, I don't want to repeat that Rs. 1400 crores have been paid to the Central Government employees in four years. But I would like to draw your attention and through you to the Hon. Minister to this portion of his answer :

“Therefore, the question of payment of each instalment of Dearness Allowance has to be considered carefully with regard to their impact on the economic situation and the Budget.”

Sir, the Minister has admitted that the Dearness Allowances are being given only to neutralise the price rise. He has also said that the State Governments also want to give the dearness allowance as the Central Government gives to their own employees. So, my question is whether a Dearness Allowance formula can be worked out if the price can be checked. I would like to know what is the formula of the Central Government to check the price rise so that the Dearness Allowance is not demanded by the Central Government employees or the State Government

employees or the public sector or the municipal and Corporation employees I want to know a categorical answer from the Minister in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is the same question, the same answer.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, I have answered this question on a number of times, not one, and even in reply to the earlier questions I have explained it. I would like to clarify only on one point because there would be misunderstanding if the hon. Member's statement is reported. I have never said that the State Government should pay at the rate of the Central Government here. What I said is that when the Central Government pays dearness allowance, there is a pressure on the State Government to pay its own employees at whatever rate they may be following. But I have never said that the State Government should pay at the rate of Central Government. I wanted to clarify this point.

(Interruptions)

मूल्य वृद्धि रोकने हेतु की गई
कार्यवाही

*6. श्री मनीराम बागड़ी :

श्री जगपाल सिंह : क्या वित्त मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने मूल्य वृद्धि को रोकने हेतु कोई नए कदम उठाए हैं, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी व्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) कृषि उत्पादन में भारी वृद्धि होने और औद्योगिक उत्पादन सामान्य होने के बावजूद सामान्य उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं के मूल्यों (फुटकर मूल्य आदि) में लगातार वृद्धि होने का क्या औचित्य है; और

(ग) क्या आगामी बजट के दौरान और उसके बाद मूल्य वृद्धि को रोकने के लिए

सरकार का विचार फुटकर मूल्यों में किसी भी प्रकार की वृद्धि न होने देने तथा मुद्रास्फीति को रोकने हेतु भी कार्यवाही करने का है ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Government has acted on several fronts to contain the price rise in the current year. On the supply side, the public distribution system was expanded to ensure availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices. Releases of commodities like wheat, rice and sugar were increased and incentives were given to stimulate production both in agriculture and industry. On the demand side, steps were taken to mop up excess liquidity in the banking system. In January, 1984 Government introduced a package of measures aimed at strengthening fiscal discipline.

The price increase in the current year reflects the delayed effect of last year's drought which led to a sharp increase in the prices in the first half of the year. However, although the seasonal decline after September has been weak, it is not correct to say that there has been a continuous rise in the prices of common consumer goods inspite of the increase in agricultural production. Between end September and 3rd December, 1983 the wholesale Price Index declined by nearly 1 per cent. The record kharif production has led to a fall in the prices of many common consumer goods such as cereals, fruits and vegetables, and sugar, khandsari and gur between end September and end-December, 1983. The Consumer Price Index for December 1983 has declined by 0.4 per cent over the previous month.

Government is closely monitoring the price situation and steps will be taken as necessary in the light of emerging trends.

श्री मनोराम बागड़ी : अध्यक्ष जी, यह एक बहुत गम्भीर सवाल है कि भारत में कृषि का उत्पादन घट रहा है। और उसके घटने के कई

कारण हैं जैसे बिजली की कीमत में बढ़ोतरी, कोयले की कीमत 25 परसेंट बढ़ा दी गई है उसकी वजह से भी बिजली के दाम बढ़ गए। इनसे उद्योग और कृषि का मूल्य चलता है वह भी चीटी और हाथी की चाल से, यानी जो कल-कारखाने में पैदा होने वाली चीजें हैं उनके दाम तो बढ़े, लेकिन खेत से पैदा होने वाली चीजों के दाम सस्ते। इन दोनों में कोई संतुलन नहीं है। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार कोयले की कीमत घटा कर, खाद की कीमत घटा कर, बिजली का रेट घटा करके और वक्त पर पानी दे करके खेत की पैदावार बढ़ाने की तरफ कोई ठोस कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं ? यदि हाँ, तो कब और क्या ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, in my statement I have given certain indications, broad indications, but the fact remains that unless we improve our efficiency and have greater capacity utilisation, it is not the question of whether we reduce the price and meet the deficit of the producing agencies through subsidies. The economic impact remains the same. After all, coal is not being produced by the private manufacturers. If coal is being produced by the public sector units, Coal India or others, in order to meet their cost of operations there are two options left to you and the economic impact of this remains the same. About the electricity charges, despite this fact—the other side of the story is that most of the State Electricity Boards are highly subsidised despite the rate of tariff which you are referring to, which is too high, and there many other reasons we have discussed on earlier occasions in their details and the Members will get the opportunity of discussing it at the appropriate moment. The limited question is in regard to the prices. One of the major reasons for the coal prices increase was the recent wage agreement. As a result of the wage agreement, the pay bill of the coal employees had increased to Rs. 192 crores. Where would you get this ? Either you will have to get it through increasing price or you will have to subsidise the Coal India Ltd. and

because of this very fact we shall have to keep in mind in certain areas that even if we produce more even at the 85 per cent capacity or sometimes even at the 100 per cent capacity utilisation, there are bound to be losses because of the quality of the coal, because of the high ash content, and we cannot avoid these types of productions because apart from employment generation and other factors, there are certain locational advantages. Therefore, certain things are really complicated. We have taken certain steps, as I have indicated in my written statement, and certain more steps are being contemplated and I am really worried about the situation as I mentioned on a number of occasions that a peculiar force has behaved in the sense that the hon. Members have said. Last year the severest drought year was there, but you have noticed that the annual rate of inflation was just 6.5 per cent. Even in January it was just 2 per cent. For this year, the economic explanation is, it is the delayed impact of the drought. Similarly, this year we are having good kharif crop, rabi crop has yet to come, it is told that production may be of a very high order, but the impact has not yet been felt. This is a fact.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Restrictions by IA on Marriage of Air Hostesses

*7. SHRI R.P. GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has placed a restriction on Air Hostesses not to marry for four years, while in Air India the restriction is only for two year's ;

(b) the reasons for keeping the Air Hostesses waiting for four year's ; and

(c) whether Government would relax the period in view of the changed times ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) The restriction placed on airhostesses barring them from marriage within four years of their service is uniformly applicable to air-hostesses of both Indian Airlines and Air India.

(b) If the above bar on marriages is removed, Indian Airlines would have to appoint a large number of additional air-hostesses to substitute for those proceeding on long maternity leave.

(c) No relaxation is contemplated.

सोना, चांदी और घड़ियों की तस्करी

*8. श्री जयपाल सिंह कश्यप : क्या वित्त मंत्री निम्नलिखित जानकारी दर्शाने वाला विवरण सभा-पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे कि वर्ष 1983 में और 1984 में जनवरी तक सोना, चांदी और घड़ियों की तरस्करी के कितने मामले पकड़े गए और उपर्युक्त प्रत्येक सामान कितनी-कितनी मात्रा में पकड़ा गया और उनका अलग-अलग मूल्य कितना है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एस० एम० कृष्णा) : वर्ष 1983 और जनवरी 1984 तक के दौरान पकड़े गए सोने, चांदी और घड़ियों की तस्करी सम्बन्धी मामलों की संख्या, माल की मात्रा और उसका मूल्य इस प्रकार है :—

जिन्स	1983*			1984 (जनवरी तक)*		
	मामलों की सं०	माल की मात्रा	मूल्य (लाख रुपए)	मामलों की संख्या	माल की मात्रा	मूल्य (लाख रुपए)
सोना	498	249 कि०ग्रा०	449	44	18 कि० ग्रा०	41
चांदी	76	32,189 कि०ग्रा०	1102	1	1 कि० ग्रा०	0.03
घड़ियां	2141	2,37,218 अदद	571	97	12,306 अदद	13.31

(*ये आंकड़े अन्तिम हैं)