

में बनती हैं वह चीजें भेजे, और हमारा इंजीनियरिंग सेक्शन अच्छी तरह से प्रगति कर रहा है। वहां पर जो पदा होता है उसको अगर भेजने की कोशिश कर सकते हैं तो करने के लिए तैयार हैं। और उन्होंने भी कहा है कि वह चीजें हमारे से लेते रहेंगे। पुराने जमाने का जो व्यापार था उससे भी वह अलग करने के लिये तैयार हैं।

Reduction in non-productive Expenditure

*192. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some active steps have been taken by Government to effectively reduce non-productive expenditure without sacrificing development and efficiency in administration;

(b) if so, the nature of the proposals and the action taken so far in this direction;

(c) whether State Governments have also been requested to cooperate in his drive against wasteful expenditure; and

(d) if so, how far Government have achieved success so far as the question of economy is concerned

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

Statement

(a) and (b). Presumably, by non-productive expenditure, the Hon'ble Member is referring to non-developmental expenditure of Government. The need for austerity and effecting economy in non-developmental expenditure has been constantly engaging the attention of the Government. Instructions in this regard have been issued from time to time. A statement indicating the earlier as well as recent instructions in this regard is annexed.

(c) The State Governments have been requested to cooperate in restricting unnecessary expenditure and to maximise economies in expenditure so that the scarce

financial resources are deployed judiciously with a view to yielding maximum benefits. The States have in general agreed to cooperate in this regard.

(d) The savings arising as a result of economy measures are not reflected in any primary unit of appropriation or any separate sub-head and as such the system of accounts does not lend itself to quantification of the economy in administrative expenditure of Government. Government is conscious about the need for economy in its expenditure particularly the non-developmental expenditure. Government attaches great importance to the task of bringing down the non-developmental expenditure and for enforcing strict economy in its expenditure. With this end in view, the Government issued economy instructions in August, 1974, which were reviewed and up-dated, in 1977. In July, 1979, the Ministries/Departments have been advised that:

(a) no additional posts should be sanctioned on the non-Plan side unless they are matched by equivalent savings by surrender of other posts except in the case of entirely new organisations, the need for which has been specifically accepted;

(b) posts sanctioned for Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be reviewed in order to effect a drastic curtailment in their number; and

(c) a drastic reduction should be effected in the number of deputations and delegations abroad.

2. The other economy instructions which Government are enforcing include:—

(a) *Telephone*: STD facility has been restricted to officers of the rank of Joint Secretary and above in offices and at residence of officers of the rank of Deputy Secretary and above and for others in specific cases on functional basis. The number of free calls allowed in respect of residential telephones has been reduced from 1500 per quarter to 650 on bi-monthly basis.

(b) *Economy in the use of paper*: Maximum economy in the use of paper.

(c) *Transfer of Government servants:* Ban on rotational transfers for a period of one year initially has since been extended until further orders except in regard to specified categories of posts.

(d) *Restrictions of Air Travel:* Complete ban on air travel by non-entitled categories, except with specific permission.

(e) *Consumption of Petrol:* Petrol consumption by Staff Cars restricted to 66.2/3 per cent of quantity consumed during 1978-79 in respect of nonoperational vehicles and 85 per cent in respect of operational vehicles.

In respect of Ministers, the maximum limit of 900 litres per quarter reduced to 750 litres per quarter from 25.5.1979.

(f) *Employment of additional staff on daily wages:* There is ban on engaging additional staff on daily wage basis in all Government offices.

(g) *Ban on filling up of posts:* There is ban on filling up of vacancies which are more than six months old except with the concurrence of the concerned Financial Adviser. In respect of posts to be filled by recruitment/promotion through U.P.S.C./S.S.C./D.P.C. the time-limit of six months has been enhanced to one year.

(i) *Staff Cars:* No addition to the existing fleet of cars should be made without the prior approval of the Ministry of Finance.

3. In August, 1980 in the light of directive given by Prime Minister, Financial Advisers were requested to scrutinise proposals for foreign deputation applying stricter standards.

4. In July, 1981 further instructions have been issued to restrict expenditure on foreign travel. These include:—

(a) all proposals for delegation and deputations abroad to be scrutinised carefully and pruned to the minimum.

(b) Only Secretaries to Government of India and Officers of equivalent rank

and Schedule 'A' Heads of Public Sector Undertakings (including Banks, insurance companies and financial institutions) would be entitled to air travel by 1st class in respect of foreign travels.

(c) Officers of the rank of Secretaries to Government were previously entitled to a suite in a hotel when they travelled abroad. As a measure of economy, it has been decided that all officers including Secretaries to Government and Heads of other offices of Public Sector Undertakings (including Banks, insurance companies and financial institutions) will be entitled to stay only in a single room when they are abroad.

(d) Only the Cabinet Ministers and Ministers of State will be entitled to take with them one Private Secretary when they travel abroad, and other personal staff will not be entitled to accompany the Minister on such visits.

5. In March 1982 Prime Minister's observations regarding the need for giving up all kinds of extravagance and practising some measure of austerity particularly in view of shortage of essential commodities in the country and the need for avoiding wasteful expenditure have been brought to the notice of all Financial Advisers who are responsible for exercising control on expenditure in respective Ministries/Departments/Organisations etc.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have asked specifically a few questions regarding the curb in wasteful expenditure by the States and the Union and how far the Government is successful in their attempt.

The hon. Minister has mentioned regarding the States. He has mentioned that the States have, in general, agreed to cooperate in this regard. May I know from the hon. Minister, apart from their willingness to cooperate, whether he is aware of the fact as to what concrete steps these States have taken to curb the wasteful expenditure and whether the Centre has asked for any report from the individual States regarding this? Secondly, he has also mentioned that it is very difficult to

quantify the amount regarding the non-development expenditure. If he is not able to quantify the amount, at least, will the hon. Minister indicate to the House as to how far and to what extent, they have achieved their targets?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, answering the last part of his question first, it is not possible to quantify it in terms of absolute money in different States. But, I can give some indications in terms of percentage, of the total national income, what is the non-development expenditure. For instance, in 1975-76, the Central Government's expenditure was 46.2 per cent—I am here talking of the Central Government alone—not including all the States. It was 46.2 per cent of the total national income. The Central Government's expenditure has now come down to 41.3 per cent in 1982-83. The total expenditure, if the hon. Member is interested to know, so far as the Central Government is concerned, was that in 1975-76 it was Rs. 12,037 crores and in 1982-83 budget estimates, it is Rs. 28,369 crores. In terms of percentage, it has come down. Secondly, all non-development expenditure is not a wasteful expenditure because, in the non-development expenditure, we include what is popularly called the non-plan expenditure. But, we ought to indicate the non-plan expenditure. It will increase because the assets which you create during a Plan period in the accounting formulation becomes a non-plan expenditure for maintenance. Even if you construct a hospital building or house or a college building or a laboratory or an irrigation project, even the mere maintenance charge would be treated as non-plan expenditure and would come within the category of non-developmental expenditure. But strictly speaking you cannot call it a wasteful expenditure. Therefore I think it would not be correct to say that all non-developmental expenditure is wasteful expenditure.

Now, in regard to economy I have given in fact an exhaustive statement indicating the areas where we are trying to achieve the economic objectives. So far as the State Governments are concerned there is no system of getting the monitoring or quarterly reports. It is not possible.

After all, they are also responsible Governments and they are responsible to their Electorate and they know it fully well. Because, in the present situation, if they cannot reduce the expenditure which should be avoided, they will not get sufficient support to mop up for their plan expenditure and maintain the developmental tempo.

Regarding the general guidelines which we are issuing to the States, by and large they are agreeing to it. My problem is that they are not reducing expenditure; but my problem is that they are not mopping up additional resources.

SHRI ARUN SETHI: I am entirely in agreement with the hon. Minister that all the wasteful expenditure cannot be curtailed. (*Interruption*).

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Non-plan expenditure cannot be curtailed.

SHRI ARUN SETHI: I am entirely in agreement with you. It is noticed and many times in this House the hon. Minister has answered that from year to year the overtime payments to the Central Government employees have been increasing. May I know whether the hon. Minister considers that the overtime payments paid to the employees are in tune with the need for maintenance of economy? How is this in the interest of the administration and the interest of our developmental purposes? This is what I want to know.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: In many areas we have reduced overtime. But sometimes it becomes rather inevitable. In the statement which I have laid on the Table of the House, the hon. Member will find, I am strictly monitoring these things, particularly in the non-operational areas. Therefore, if some work has to be done, it has to be done by the existing staff. But at the same time I am reducing it and in certain areas we have found visible impact of it—particularly in the Banks it has been reduced almost to half. There is tremendous pressure on me to increase the rate of overtime. But I do hope that with the support of the hon. Members I will be able to withstand that pressure.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDAR: The hon. Minister in his long

statement has stated that he wants to restrict the foreign tours of Ministers, Secretaries and others. He has mentioned that the expenditure has been reduced from 46 per cent to 41 per cent. I would like to know from the Minister whether it has been reflected in the foreign tours of Central Ministers, Secretaries, Officers of the Public Undertakings, etc. I want to know the break up for the last three years and the amount involved.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It is not possible to quantify on what account how much was reduced. But, in regard to the expenditure of the Central Ministers, Secretaries, Heads of Public Sector Undertakings etc. if he wants any information, I would need a separate notice.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDAR: At least he can give the figures for foreign tours of the Central Government Officers. What is the total amount and what percentage has been reduced by them?

MR. SPEAKER: It is not possible for him to give that information now.

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: Sir, this is a very important question. We are considering it merely in an academic manner. In a country like ours where more than 50 per cent of the people live below the poverty line the common man is so much worried because of the vulgar exhibition of the wealth on the part of not only the Ministers—I do not envy them—but on the part of bureaucrats also. The perquisites of the bureaucrats are so much and all the facilities enjoyed by them are so much that sometimes their perquisites, etc., are more than the Ministers' salaries, etc. Will the hon. Minister gather courage in both hands and slash considerably all this vulgar exhibition and the wealth of the Government and the Government servants?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: We are always against the vulgar exhibition of wealth by anybody including the Government, Government officers and the Ministers. But in regard to salary, I hope that the hon. Member should not envy the

Ministers because there is not a single Member in this House who does not get more than the Cabinet Minister, not a single Member. The Ministers' salaries and allowances were determined in 1952. The Cabinet Minister is just getting Rs. 2250 including you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: But so far you have not shown any sympathy.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Not only that. Perhaps on this count, I am unpopular, to every colleague of mine, including you, Sir. Sir, in regard to the perquisites, it is true but you cannot just ascribe it—No Minister wants to have a big bungalow with lawns. If you want to give a small working house, everybody will be happy. But these are there and some of them are allotted to it and they just use them. You cannot expect that everybody is using it. Nobody wants it and gradually we are removing them. In fact, in the Statement I have mentioned this point. But in regard to the austerity, earlier the Secretary used to have a suite. Now, we have restricted it to a single room. So, this is misleading exhibition.

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: Sir, the hon. Minister has not answered my question. My attack was not on Ministers' salaries, but bureaucrats' I asked about the perquisites and what the percentage is. He has not answered that.

MR. SPEAKER: It is all right. Next Question. Shri Rajnath Sonkar Shastri. Shri Trilok Chand. They are not there. Next Question—Shri P. Namgyal. He is not present. Next question—Shri Daya Ram Shakya—Absent. Next question—Dr. A. U. Azmi—Absent. Next question No. 197—Shri C. T. Dhandapani.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: Question No. 197.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is in the name of Mr. C. T. Dhandapani.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: Sir, he asked me to put this question.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, he is not Mr. Dhandapani.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: I am sorry, Sir. I am standing in his place.

AN HON. MEMBER: It can be a question of Privilege motion. It can be a question of proxy!

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.—Shri B. V. Desai, Shri M. V. Chandrashekara Murthy—Absent. Next Question—Shri Jai Narayan Roat—Absent. Question No. 200—Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee—No. Shri Suraj Bhan.

Prices of Consumer Items

*200. SHRI SURAJ BHAN:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) what are the monthly prices of consumer items since April last;

(b) what are the items of which prices have risen and by how much; and

(c) what were their prices in the same months in the years 1981, 1980 and 1979?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF CIVIL AVIATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5505/82.]

श्री: सूरज भान : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने बड़ा लम्बा स्टेटमेंट रखा है, लेकिन मैं उसमें से केवल 7 आइटम्स का जिक्र करना चाहता हूँ, जो वाकई आवश्यक वस्तुएं हैं: चावल, प्याज, चाय, आलू, कोयला, उरद की दाल, आटा। 1980 में रूलिंग पार्टी के मेनिफेस्टो में कहा गया था कि हम चीजों के दाम कम करेंगे, लेकिन यह स्टेटमेंट जाहिर करता है कि 1979 में चावल का जो दाम था, आज उससे दुगना है, प्याज का दाम दुगना, आलू का डेढ़ गुना, चाय का

डेढ़ गुना, कोयले का दुगना और उरद की दाल का डेढ़ गुना हो गया है। आटे के दाम भी बढ़े हैं। अप्रैल, 1982 से सितम्बर, 1982 तक चावल के दाम में 14 परसेंट बढ़ोतरी हुई है, प्याज के दाम में 64 परसेंट, चाय के दाम में 12 परसेंट, आलू के दाम में 59 परसेंट, कोयले के दाम में 16 परसेंट, उरद की दाल के दाम में 36 परसेंट और आटे के दाम में 15 परसेंट बढ़ोतरी हुई है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ क्या आपने अपने एलेक्शन वादे को ध्यान में रखते हुए चीजों के भाव कम हों, इस सिलसिले में कोई कदम उठाए हैं?

श्री: भागवत झा आजाद : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जो एलेक्शन का वादा था और जो उस समय इंफ्लेशन था उसकी तुलना में अब काफी कमी है। माननीय सदस्य जो पूछ रहे हैं इसमें अप्रैल, 1982 में तो प्राइसेज स्टेडी थीं उसके बाद पिछले पांच महीनों में 5.2 परसेंट की वृद्धि हुई है यानी हर महीने में एक परसेंट की वृद्धि हुई है। लेकिन अभी सितम्बर में इन प्राइसेज में एक परसेंट की कमी भी हुई है। इसके अलावा अक्टूबर के एक वीक की जो फीगर्स आई हैं उसमें प्वाइन्ट वन परसेंट की कमी है। कमियों की वृद्धि के तीन प्रमुख कारण हैं। एक तो यह कि इस साल मानसून बड़ा इरेटिक रहा। दूसरे जो वर्षा अप्रैल और मई में हुई वह अनटाइमली हुई जिससे फसल को नुकसान पहुंचा और अभी हथिया भी फेल हो गया। तीसरी बात यह है कि हिन्दुस्तान में मई से लेकर सितम्बर तक लीन पीरियड होता है जिसमें कीमतें कुछ न कुछ बढ़ती हैं। इन तीन प्रमुख कारणों के कारण अभी ऐसा लगता है