

all these autonomous bodies can function, I fail to understand why an autonomous character cannot be given to the Public Service Commission. Then, there would be no feeling of grievance in the minds of the people. Only because the Executive is interfering with them and is over-riding the decisions of the Public Service Commission, better elements and not coming forth for government service. The scientists, the experts and others are keeping themselves apart. As I have said in the beginning, if democracy is to function as pure and simple democracy, if it is to function as unalloyed democracy, in that case, Government owes it to the country and the people at large to see that the Public Service Commission is kept out of Executive influence. Their recommendations should be mandatory and not consultative or advisory. In view of the fact that it is well-nigh impossible for me to snatch away power from unwilling hands, I think it fit to withdraw my Resolution.

Mr Deputy-Speaker: What about the substitute motions?

Shri Shree Narayan Das: I do not press mine, Sir.

Shri Rajendra Singh: The hon. Minister has made up his mind, there is no argument which can convince him. So I also would withdraw my substitute Resolution.

Mr Deputy-Speaker: All is well that ends well.

Have all these hon. Members the leave of the House to withdraw their motions?

*The Resolution and amendments
were, by leave, withdrawn.*

16 32 hrs

**RESOLUTION RE SECOND INSTAL-
MENT OF INTERIM RELIEF TO
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EM-
PLOYEES**

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Sir, I beg to move

"This House is of opinion that pending the report of the Pay Commission further interim relief be paid to the Central Government employees in receipt of Rs 350 as basic pay."

[Mr Speaker in the Chair]

Mr Speaker, Sir, today when I move my Resolution and speak on it, I have the moral support not only of 17 lakhs of Central Government employees but also of lakhs of State Government employees, Local Board employees and lakhs of others who are also serving in the private sector. Today when I move this Resolution I feel that all the employees, whether in the public or in the private sector, are interested to know whether Government is going to consider this demand for a second instalment of interim relief.

I have received telegrams from every corner of this country. It would have been better for me to have placed these telegrams on the Table of the House. But I do not wish to place them as I know a much greater number has been received by the hon. Finance Minister.

This House knows that in August 1957 when 3 lakhs of Posts & Telegraphs employees having exhausted all channels of negotiation decided to go on strike and there was a demand for a Second Pay Commission which was supported by others: the Railway employees, the Defence employees and Civil Aviation employees, and others: 10 lakhs, the Prime Minister took the initiative and conceded this demand of the Central Government employees and a Pay Commission was appointed. Even then, when it was announced that a Pay Commission had been appointed there was a unanimous demand from the employees that some interim relief should be given and the Government very kindly conceded that demand also and referred this question to the Pay Commission. All the memoranda were submitted to the Pay Commission and after going through the various memoranda the

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

Pay Commission also came to the conclusion that some interim relief was necessary. In December 1957 this interim relief was announced by the then Finance Minister and it was said that it has recommended a meagre sum of Rs. 5 for all Government employees receiving a salary of Rs. 250 or less. This meagre amount of 5 was almost rejected by them but thinking that the Commission would submit its report at an early date, they patiently waited for the final report and accepted this meagre amount. I may point out that this increase has no relationship with the rise in the cost of living. It was just to check the growth of a very big movement in the country launched by the Central Government employees.

Today when this Resolution is discussed here, a feeling may be created by the hon. Minister that there is no justification for this Resolution for a second instalment of interim relief when every sincere effort is being made to expedite the report of the Pay Commission. I do not doubt the sincerity of our hon. Minister or of the Government as a whole. But I am convinced that even if the report is submitted, say, tomorrow, its implementation will take another one or two years. That is the story of all commissions and committees in this country.

16.38 hrs.

[SHRI JAIPAL SINGH *in the Chair*]

How can the Central Government employees fight the soaring prices of commodities? Let us analyse how the prices have increased. I shall quote some figures from the Labour Gazette. I hope these figures will be taken note of by my respected friend, the hon. Finance Minister. This is the consumer price index number, and the base year 1949—100. I shall quote the figures for 1958 upto October. In April, the number is 111 for General and 112 for food, in May they are 113 and 113 respectively; for June, 116 and 118; for July 119 and 122; for August, 120 and

124; for September 121 and 125 and for October 123 and 127. Let us also analyse the All India index of wholesale prices. The base year is 1952-53. In April the number is 97 (1952-53 base—100) for general and 82 for pulses. For May, the figures are 99 and 92 respectively. For June they are 106 and 91; for July, 110 and 100; for August 114 and 102; for September 115 and 105 and for October they are 114 and 109.

Now, let us analyse this. How can the Central Government employees possibly fight out the soaring prices and prevent the starvation of their family members. I do not impute any motive to the learned members of the Pay Commission. I agree it was a big, Himalayan, job. But it must be remembered that the previous Pay Commission, when it was appointed, had no data. We then had no figures available. At that time, there were no federations. There was one federation but the unions were not so organized and it was difficult for the Pay Commission to arrive at some conclusions. But today, the Pay Commission has the report of the previous Pay Commission. They clearly indicated that the pay-scales from Rs. 30 to Rs. 35, from Rs. 35 to Rs. 50 from Rs. 55 to Rs. 130 were so fixed on a clear assumption that after the cessation of war the prices would stabilize at a level of between 160 and 175. But what was the effect of the war? Even after the cessation of hostilities, even after all attempts, the prices could not be checked. The effect of the war had an effect on the country's economy.

Today, indeed, I need not have quoted these figures because right from the Prime Minister of our country, or right even from the Rashtrapathi down to the common man, have admitted that the prices have risen to a pitch where it is impossible for any man to feed his family members.

Another question may be raised as to the gap between one set of

government servants and another set of government servants. Why the Central Government Employees should become so privileged? They had one interim relief of Rs 5. Why should they have another interim relief? This question may be raised because I know that whenever the Central Government employees ask for any increase in wages, they are told by our leaders, 'why not look towards the employees of State Governments, they are so poorly paid'. When the State Government employees ask for some increase, they are told, 'why do you not see the poor wages of the agricultural labourers and of the local board employees?' When the employees of local boards raise a slogan and ask 'Give us something', the authorities say, 'You must thank God that you are employed. Go to the Employment Exchange and see how many people are in need of jobs and have no jobs now'. This is the way of satisfying everyone.

I want the gap between the Central Government employees' pay and the State Government employees' pay or the local body employees' pay to be bridged. But there are certain systems of doing it. Of course this gap will remain for some time. But the moment we sincerely decide that it has to be bridged it will be done. By putting that argument I hope the hon. Minister will not be able to choke the voice of the Central Government employees.

For the information of the House, I may point out what the salaries of the Central Government employees are today. In this very House, I put a question and wanted to know the number of Central Government employees who are in receipt of a pay less than Rs 100 and of those receiving Rs 100 and more. The answer was that the total number of employees receiving Rs 100 or more was 2,43,605, the number of those who are getting less than Rs 100 was 13,75,742. The number of persons who were getting Rs 250 or more was

52,000. So, when in this country, out of about 17 lakh Central Government employees 14 lakh employees are getting less than Rs 100 each, and if they demand a second instalment of interim relief, I do not think they have committed a sin.

Another important point is about their pay scales. I have quoted all these figures to show how prices have increased. It is interesting to note that a Class IV employee, an unskilled worker working under the Central Government, after completing one year's service honestly, sincerely and efficiently, is given an increment of 50 p—8 anna—to counteract the soaring prices. Imagine how with these 50 p, he will be able to save his children from starvation.

In this very House, I wanted to know the number of employees—Class I, Class II, Class III and Class IV—working in the railways who have become victims of tuberculosis. I was told on 11-1-1958 Class I 1,101, Class II 2,000, Class III 1,078 and Class IV 3,454. Why has this number suddenly increased when it came to the doors of Class IV employees? It is because of malnutrition, undernourishment, insanitary conditions in their houses, etc. Let us analyse the whole thing from this point of view. Indebtedness has increased among Class III and Class IV employees working under the Central Government, State Governments and local bodies. They have taken money from the Kabuliwāls who have now been replaced by other people. They have taken money from their co-operative societies and loans from their provident fund which is the only compulsory saving for Class III or Class IV employees.

In 1952 a survey was made by the Indian Statistical Institute's Bombay branch which says

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

Per capita expenditure level average indebtedness per family

Below Rs. 50	364 41
Rs. 50 to Rs. 74	278 42
Rs. 75 to Rs. 99	173 40
Rs. 100 to Rs. 149	252 50
Rs. 150 and above	1851 85

My hon. friend might say that this pertains to 1952 I will quote figures to show how indebtedness is on the increase on an average I give below the number of members taking loans and the total amount pertaining to the Central Telegraph Office Co-operative Credit Society Limited, Calcutta:

Year	No of members taking loans	Total amount of loan in Rs.
1950-51	947	9,85,240
1951-52	1052	12,45,740
1952-53	1097	14,52,068
1953-54	1305	17,31,505
1954-55	1377	20,40,000

Another instance is provided by the East Indian Railway Employees' Co-operative Credit Society Limited (Eastern Railway, excluding Sealdah Division) In 1946, the number of men taking loans was 12,153 and the sanctioned amount of loan was Rs 52,27,900 In 1955 the number of men was 23,322 and the amount of loans sanctioned was Rs 1,29,82,400

You can imagine how then the employees today find the soaring prices which our Government has miserably failed to tackle With all humility, I may respectfully submit that today people are losing faith So I request the hon Minister to know the sentiments of the Central Government employees I may repeat the words of my hon friend, one of the members of this House, who said in 1953 that the line between hunger and anger is becoming thinner So I would request him to see that hunger and anger do not meet together, in the larger interests of the country

Another question arises about the resources If the Government of India says that there are no resources a man getting Rs. 30 per month will ask: what about the evasion of income-tax to the tune of Rs 270 crores? He will ask an explanation from this Government for the income-tax evasion He will ask an explanation from the Government for the necessity of constructing a hotel like Asoka Hotel at a cost of Rs. 2.5 crores. He will ask an explanation why the Audit Report shows a drainage to the tune of Rs 8 crores He will ask you why there is air-conditioning at the cost of lakhs of rupees These questions can invariably and readily be posed

If only the Government of India tries to stop at least 25 per cent of the corruption, drainage and waste in the Central Government establishments, I hope this amount can well be found out That is my respectful submission We cannot possibly advance any argument in suppressing their demand for a second instalment of interim relief I may quote for the information of the hon Minister, without any motive of threatening the Government, that the P&T employees have already decided to have a peaceful agitation They have already observed a Demands' Day on 11 2 59 and this agitation will be followed up So, I hope the Finance Minister, who has got a big heart for sanctioning loans to the tune of crores of rupees to those who are building their own industry will not have his heart reduced to the size of 1 nP in sanctioning this interim relief I submit that their peaceful agitation can never be suppressed with 4A or 4B of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules Here I am sorry to say that one Mr Joseph who demonstrated against these black rules 4A and 4B had been sacked at the age of 27 or 28 He has been asked to retire prematurely Thus, a young man of this country had to retire He is the general secretary of a particular union of the employees

of Audit and Accounts I will submit with all humility that efforts should not be made to defeat the object of this Resolution because it has been moved by a member from the Opposition I hope efforts will also not be made to say that the Pay Commission's report is being submitted in a month or so and so you wait for it I hope this will not be done and the genuine feelings of the Government employees will not be crushed

I may state that at the 15th Labour Conference certain decisions were taken unanimously on what the minimum wage should be Even the die hard capitalists also realise that today they cannot deny the workers a wage increase Employers' representatives, Government representatives and the trade union representatives of the four central trade unions unanimously decided at the Delhi Conference that the minimum pay has to be fixed What were their recommendations? The recommendations were—

In calculating the minimum wage the standard working class family should be taken to comprise three consumption units for one earner, the earnings of women, children and adolescents being disregarded

Minimum food requirements should be calculated on the basis of a net intake of calories as recommended by Dr Aykroyd for an average Indian adult of moderate activity

Clothing requirements should be estimated on the basis of a per capita consumption of 18 yards "

I know the original recommendation of the Textile Enquiry Committee was for 21 yards but our Government must have realised that 18 yards should be given during a man's lifetime and three yards kept for his coffin So, it was reduced to 18 yards

Then, about the cheap housing scheme they say that he has to pay, according to the industrial housing scheme, Rs 10/- as house rent All these were unanimous recommendations of the 15th Labour Conference held at Delhi On the basis of this I demand the Government of India to come forward as a model employer so that they may persuade, so that they may, influence and force the mill-owners, the textile magnates, the sugar magnates, the cement magnates and other people also to pay Then, they will also come forward and pay something to their employees

As a result of these recommendations of the 15th Labour Conference, wage boards have been appointed The working journalists are waiting for their wage increase The textile workers, the sugar workers, the cement workers, the State Government employees and the local Government employees are also waiting for this So, with all honesty I request the hon Finance Minister and through him the hon Prime Minister of this country, who came to the rescue of the Central Government employees, to come forward and prove that they are model employers

In the end, I once again say that today the main burden of the Plan, the responsibility for the successful implementation of the Plan depends on the public sector employees. If you will give them the second instalment of interim relief, in return, I tell you, they will really give their best for the success of this Plan

One sentence more and I will finish I have received some telegrams and one letter, which says

"We express our thanks for the initiative taken in the matter and pray to God that your efforts will be crowned with success"

Now, they have started praying to God having lost all faith in this Government With these words I request you kindly to accept this Resolution

Mr. Chairman: Resolution moved.

"This House is of opinion that pending the report of the Pay Commission further interim relief be paid to the Central Government employees in receipt of Rs 350 as basic pay."

I have received notices of some amendments. Shri Shree Narayan Das . Absent.

Shri D. C Sharma (Gurdaspur) I will move his amendment

Mr. Chairman: I regret he cannot move it. **Shri Rajendra Singh** Absent. So, his amendment also is not moved.

Shri Sinhasan Singh (Gorakhpur) Sir, I beg to move:

That after the word "that" the following be inserted, namely:

"in view of the rise in prices of food and other necessities of life"

Shri Vajpayee (Baliampur) Sir, I beg to move:

That in the resolution,—

for the words "in receipt of" the following be substituted

"receiving upto".

That in the resolution,—

add at the end,—

"and that as an additional relief measure, provision stores be opened to supply them with every day necessities at reduced prices (as prevailing in March, 1955)".

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): Sir, I beg to move:

That in the resolution,—

add at the end,—

"in view of the fact that the first interim relief of Rs. 5/- is inadequate and that twenty months have elapsed since the appointment of the Second Pay Commission."

Mr. Chairman: The Resolution and the amendments are now before the House.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur) Sir, the stock argument to which a reference has been made by my predecessor is . . .

Mr. Chairman: The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 o'clock on Monday, the 16th February, 1959

17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 16th February, 1959/Magha 27, 1880 (Saka).