

श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार साक्षे: इस पर
डिस्कशन एलाऊ कीजिए।

श्री भगवत झा आजाद: सारा
पैसा महाराष्ट्र को जाता है।

श्री बसंत साठे: महाराष्ट्र को नहीं,
बम्बई को।

श्री भगवत झा आजाद: बम्बई को।

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:

Sir, I have been trying to catch your eye
from the beginning.

MR. SPEAKER: I have to look to all
sides. If you get up every time, I am not
bound to call you. If all members get up
on all questions, there is no limit, then
only one question can be covered. Instead
of that, why not have a debate on it?

SEVERAL HON MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:

The hon. Minister has stated just now that
the lack of infra-structure and other rea-
sons are coming in the way of the develop-
ment of the backward regions. Is it not a
fact that whenever these States have de-
manded for the creation of the infra-structure,
the Finance Ministry and the Plan-
ning Commission have always turned out
the demand on the ground that the infra-
structure has not sufficient capacity to bear
the industry. At the same time, when we
ask for the establishment of industries, we
are told that the infra structure is not there.
When we ask for infra-structure they say
that there is not enough capacity to bear
the infra-structure. Then how do you ex-
pect your objectives to be fulfilled? We
are agitating for years to break this vicious
circle. May I have a categorical answer from
the Finance Minister and the Planning
Commission as to what steps they are tak-
ing to break the vicious circle?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: The
various financial institutions are there . . .

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The financial
institutions are only for the big private
people.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I as-
sure the hon. Member that we are interested
in the removal of regional disparity and

development of all areas. I come from a
backward State . . . (Interruptions). I am
giving you the factual position. We can
certainly have a debate. I would very much
welcome it, if you permit it.

Provision in Budget for Payment of Addi-
tional D.A. due to Government Employees.

*760 SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA:

†SHRI HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleas-
ed to state the reasons for not making any
provision in the budget for the current
year for the payment of additional three
instalments of D.A. to Central Govern-
ment employees which have already fallen
due?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB
KUMAR MUKHERJEE): The entire ques-
tion of dearness allowance is to be review-
ed beyond the 12-monthly index level of
272, according to the Third Pay Commis-
sion's recommendation. This review is being
made in consultation with the staff repre-
sentatives. Pending the outcome of the re-
view it would not have been realistic to
make any provision in the current year's
budget on account of the additional pay-
ment of dearness allowance.

श्री हरी सिंह. अध्यक्ष महोदय,
यह जो सवाल है यह केन्द्रीय सरकार के
लाखों कर्मचारियों की जिन्दगी में ताल्लुक
रखने वाला सवाल है और सरकार ने
वादा किया था कि हम मंहगाई भत्ता
तीन विद्वनों में के अंदर दे देंगे। सवाल
का जवाब पढ़ने से यह मानूम होता है
कि केन्द्रीय सरकार अभी किसी नतीजे
पर पहुंची ही नहीं। सरकारी कर्मचारी
चाहते हैं कि उन का भत्ता जल्दी में
जल्दी मिलना चाहिए। तो मैं पूछना
चाहना हूं कि आखिर वह क्या परिस्थिति
है, कौन से कारण हैं, क्यों जल्दी से जल्दी
डिसेशन नहीं ले रहे है और उस डिसेशन
से कितना राया उन्हें सरकारी कर्मचारियों
को देना होगा ?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: So far as the question of the money involved is concerned, the total cost of the nine instalments would be of the order of Rs. 495 crores. Out of that, it is expected that up to 31st December, 1974, the total amount which is to be deposited in the Provident Fund would be of the order of Rs. 36.80 crores, and the instalments in 1974-75 would be only Rs. 2.54 crores.

Regarding the first part of the question, it is not the intention of the Government to make unnecessary delay on it. Certain decisions were taken. We had also a discussion with the representatives of the employees on the 15th April and they have also expressed their viewpoints. All these points will be taken into consideration when the final decision is arrived at.

श्री हरी सिंह मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस की मीटिंग कब बुलाने वाली है? कर्मचारियों के रेजेन्डेंटिबल और सरकार के बीच में यह वास्तुलाप फाइनल कब हो जायगा और कब फाइनल तौर पर देय धनराशि की घोषणा कर दी जायगी? क्यों कि काफी समय टल गया है और सरकारी कर्मचारियों में बेचैनी बढ़ती जा रही है, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आखिर फाइनल तौर पर इसकी घोषणा कब कर दी जायगी?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: It is not possible for me to indicate specifically the time by which a decision will be arrived at, but already I have mentioned that on 15th April we had some discussions. Various viewpoints have come out, and we are considering them.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: On 15th April, the Standing Committee of the Staff side of the JCM met the officials of the Finance Ministry and our viewpoints were expressed, because up to March, 1975 five more instalments of D.A. are legitimately due in accordance with the recommendations of the Pay Commission. It was argued on behalf of the employees that these instalments should be paid and fresh negotiations should start as promised by Shri Jagjivan Ram on

15th April, 1975, for a wage revision because the recommendation of the Pay Commission is that after 272 points are reached, either the dearness allowance should be raised or revision of the pay scale should take place. Even at the meeting of the 22nd of this month, the Finance Secretary who was presiding did not give out the mind of the Government. He said he would convey to the Government our views because the Finance Minister was away. If five instalments are legitimately due to the Central Government employees according to the Pay Commission's recommendations, they alone are not responsible for inflation and high prices. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, before it is too late and before they prepare for an agitation, a final decision to pay the five instalments will be taken by the Government. I also want to know whether they are going to impound the entire amount. Our fear is that they are going to impound the entire amount in the name of fighting inflation.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: We are equally concerned and I share the anxiety of the hon. Member that we should arrive at an early decision so that the situation does not go beyond control. But at the same time, certain factors are there which were clearly indicated to the representatives of the staff by the Finance Secretary at the meeting with them. That is why these points are being looked into and we shall arrive at some decision as early as possible, but it will not be possible for me to indicate any specific date.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Shri Madhusudan, myself and others are members of the JCM. I was present at both the meetings. We said the Government should give an answer by the 30th April. I would like to know when the answer will be given, and whether there is any intention to impound the whole amount. I want an assurance on that.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: It is not possible for me to give an assurance. If I can give it before the 30th April, why not today?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I hope the Government is not going to impound the entire amount.

Why should 30 lakhs of Government employees be cheated?

श्री हुकम चंद कछवाय: अध्यक्ष महोदय, केन्द्रीय कर्मचारियों का पैसे के बारे में सरकार पर से विश्वास उठता जा रहा है। क्या इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए आप कोई ऐसा आश्वासन देंगे कि यह जो पैसा है यह कर्मचारियों को मिलेगा?

सारे देश के अंदर इस प्रकार की भावना बनती चली जा रही है कि यह इंदिरा फंड कब तक कटना बन्द होगा और यह पैसा कब तक मिलेगा, इस के बारे में मंत्री महोदय बताएंगे?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Am I to make any observation? The Government have no intention as such. As I have already mentioned, we are seriously considering it and we are discussing it with the Members. Even the dates of the various meetings, etc., mentioned by the hon. Members would indicate the seriousness with which the Government is considering the matter.

SHRI R. R. SHARMA: Why don't you then give an assurance here when you are considering it seriously?

MR. SPEAKER: SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI—not present.

Shri Gangadeb.

Disposal of Rough Diamonds through M.M.T.C.

*782. SHRI P. GANGADEB:†

SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether seized rough diamonds are to be allocated to the M.M.T.C.;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has given any instructions to MMTC regarding the distribution of these rough diamonds; and

(c) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Collector of Customs, Bombay is negotiating with the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation for the sale of confiscated rough diamonds to the holders of release orders/import licences. The procedural details are being worked out.

SHRI P. GANGADEB: In view of the fact that India is earning a good deal of foreign exchange by exports of cut diamonds and our diamond-cutting industry has turned out to be a good foreign exchange spinner by way of importing rough diamonds and exporting them as polished and well-cut diamonds and at the same time, in view of large scale smuggling of rough diamonds taking place frequently from foreign countries into India, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering any measures to discourage this smuggling and permitting imports of rough diamonds on duty-free basis for exports of cut diamonds and if so, what action Government have taken, or propose to take in the matter?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: As far as diamonds are concerned, we have already indicated that we are trying exports of diamonds, both cut and rough and, if possible, through the MMTC. The whole question is that for the first time we are trying to export these confiscated diamonds. We tried earlier through the agency of the Handlooms Export Promotion Corporation of India but it was not possible because they could not develop the expertise which is needed for exporting these types of articles in the foreign markets. Now, we have taken up the issue with the other agencies and I hope something will be possible to do.

SHRI P. GANGADEB: I would further like to ask whether the Government propose to encourage the establishment of diamond-cutting units in the free trade zones of the country so that there is a boost to imports and exports and thereby a net gain in terms of foreign exchange earnings for this country.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: It is a suggestion for action.