

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 9, 1974/Sravana 18
1896 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

D.A. Payable to Central Government Employees

*282. SHRI P. VENKATASUB-
BAIAH: Will the Minister of
FINANCE is pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government
have been urged upon to honour its
commitment to pay dearness allow-
ance to Government employees which
is over due; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to
be taken by Government in the mat-
tery

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K.
R. GANESH): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Orders have already been issued
granting another instalment of addi-
tional dearness allowance to the Cen-
tral Government employees with effect
from 1-4-1974. The payment of this
additional dearness allowance will be
regulated in accordance with the pro-
visions of the Additional Emoluments
(Compulsory Deposit) Ordinance, 1974.
The question of granting a further
instalment of additional dearness
allowance to the employees from 1-6-
1974.

1540 L.S.—2

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH

This revision was due in April. The
second revision, as has been stated by
the hon. Minister, fell due in June the
average price index having reached
256 points, and another revision is
necessary in July. These three revi-
sions are due for the Central Govern-
ment employees. I would like to
know from the hon. Minister why to
this revision which was due in April
the Additional Emoluments (Compul-
sory Deposit) Ordinance should be
applied retrospectively and why the
Central Government employees should
not have been given this dearness al-
lowance straightaway without its at-
tracting the provisions of the Ordi-
nance.

Secondly, compared with the price
rise, our wage rise is the lowest in the
world. Having this in mind and be-
cause of the unprecedented price rise,
may I know from the Government
whether they propose to have another
Pay Commission constituted to go
into this matter *de novo* and see that
the wage rise is compatible with the
price rise?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: The average
price index is available after about
two months from the Labour Bureau.
It has taken some time for the various
processing to be done.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: What are
the processes?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: The Finance
Ministry has to apply its mind, the
Government has to apply its mind.
You know the processes.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: They were
simply waiting for the ordinance.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: Therefore
there is always a time lag of about
2 months before the average figures

are available and then the Government takes a decision.

The ordinance, as the hon. Members are aware, has itself indicated in it that all instalments of dearness allowance or increase in salaries and wages which will become payable after 6th July will attract the provisions of the ordinance...

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: What is payable?

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: What is payable? Kindly explain.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: It became payable in April. You have postponed the payment.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: The other point the hon. Member has raised is that the dearness allowance in relation to the cost of living in our country is the lowest in the world and, therefore, he asked, whether there is any proposal for having a Pay Commission.

The DA formula is a formula recommended by the Pay Commission. I am not aware of the formula available in other countries. The only thing I may point out to the hon. Member is that probably we are one of the few countries in the world—I am not saying that such a DA is fully compensated for the increase in the cost of living, that is not my contention—but we are one of the few countries in the world where there is an automatic linkage of dearness allowance with the cost of living.

With regard to the other point he has raised, it is a fact that inflation is there. That is why these Ordinances have come.

With regard to his query whether another Pay Commission will be appointed, the Third Pay Commission has very recently reported in 1973 and its recommendations were given effect to from 1-1-1973....

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: The Central Government employees do not want another Pay Commission. Now, it is for the Finance Ministry to take decisions.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: The DA instalment which is applicable now from 1-4-1974 for which orders have been issued, there the rate of DA is now 24 per cent which is the cumulative rate. It varies from 8 per cent to 24 per cent. It comes to 24 per cent as far as the lower bracket of Rs. 300 is concerned.

The hon. Members are aware of the amount of expenditure that the Government had to incur in giving these DA increases. For instance from 1-5-1973 to 1-4-1974 for which the orders have been issued, now under the new formula of the Pay Commission...

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: You are responsible for the price rise.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: I am not going into that. I am just indicating the factual position.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Don't defend the Government.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: The figure is about Rs. 306 crores and with the other instalments as and when they fall due, it will go up.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH: May I know whether it is a fact that each revision of the DA will cost the Government an additional financial commitment to the tune of Rs. 52 crores. If that is so, in view of the inflationary trends which are prevailing in the country and also the Government's efforts to contain inflationary and as this will add to further inflationary trends, I want to know whether the Government propose to at least evolve a scheme by which you will subsidise the supply of essential commodities to these employees to offset those difficulties.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: It is true that each instalment of dearness allowance in a full year will cost the Government from Rs. 50 to 52 crores. It is also a fact that not only the Government but this House also will have to take its own view on that. Even on the basis of the present increase of average price index perhaps a number of instalments of DA by 1975 January may become due. He asked about subsidised food articles. The House is aware that discussion has already taken place and Dharma Committee has submitted its report. It is quite obvious that in the present inflationary period if it is possible to supply commodities if not at subsidised, but even at constant prices a bulk of the problem could be solved. This matter is constantly engaging the attention of the Government.

श्री मधु लिमये दाम वृद्धि की एतवार इतर्न तेज हो गई है कि हर महीने आपको डी ए में वृद्धि करते जा ता पड़ेगा। क्या मंत्री महोदय को पता है कि राजधानी में जो आपने ग्राइनेस निकाला है उसको ले कर बहुत बड़ा प्रदर्शन होने वाला... (ब्यारब न) दाम वृद्धि की जिम्मेदारी सरकार की है और डी ए र्ता के मुद्रावर्ज के कम्पनशेशन के रूप में मिलता है उसको भी आप फीज कर रहे हैं। हर महीने दाम वृद्धि के चलने डी ए में वृद्धि करना क्या लाजिमी नहीं होने वाला है ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: I am not in a position to say that every month there will be another DA instalment becoming due. But, Sir, it is a fact from which there is no use getting out. With this present inflationary trends continuing, even in the present rate of cost of prices increasing, a series of further instalments of DA may become necessary.

श्री नाथू राम अहिरवार जब कभी भी डी ए बढ़ता है तो चीजों के दाम भी बाजार में बढ़ जाते हैं हर चीज का भाव बढ़ जाता

है। डी ए की जो आवाज उठाई जाती है वह गार्गेनरिज्ड र्न्क्टर की ओर से उठाई जाती है और उसी र्न्क्टर को डी ए मिलता है। लाखों आदमी जो देहाती में काम करने हैं खेतों पर करते हैं सड़कों पर करते हैं डेरियों में करते हैं उनकी ओर भी क्या सरकार का ध्यान गया है महंगाई अगर बढ़ती है तो क्या उनके वास्ते भी कुछ नहीं किया जाना चाहिये ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय . यह गवर्नमेंट एम्प्लायीज का सवाल है। किसानों के लिए अगर करना है तो अलहदा सवाल करे। इसी में क्यों घुसेड़ रहे हैं। अलहदा प्रश्न दें तो मैं फारम ले लूंगा। लेकिन यह इस में पैदा नहीं होता है।

श्री नाथू राम अहिरवार : इसका असर पूरे देश पर पड़ता है।

श्री पन्नालाल बाकपाल : पैसा उनकी पाकेट से आएगा और दिया जाएगा इनको।

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, the hon. Minister said just now that the Ordinance of 6th July is applicable to all instalments of Dearness Allowance which are payable after that date.

I would like to know from him whether it is not a fact that this instalment of D.A. which is being announced was payable actually from 1st April. It is payable from 1st April but just because the Simla Bureau takes two months to calculate that does not mean that the instalment of D.A. that has become payable is now being paid. It is payable from 1st April which is long before the Ordinance was promulgated. Therefore I would like to know from him whether the Ordinance contains any provision which has retrospective effect. It does not contain provisions for retrospective effect. Therefore, why should not this instalment, which is payable from April, be

paid and, why should it be subjected to any compulsory deposit at all? This is something which is payable in a period long before the Ordinance was perhaps even thought of. Why should the employees be made to suffer for something which is due to the Government's fault in paying the D.A.? It was payable two months ago.

SHRI K. R. GANESH. For all instalments of D.A., as I have tried to indicate earlier, figures are available—the date is available—about one and a half months after that. Therefore, all the instalments of D.A. whatever be the date as I submitted earlier, are paid about two months after the figures are available. I can say that is the view of Shri Gupta. And the trade union too has been putting this view. But the Government's view, which I have tried to explain, is that as per the Ordinance which has come into force from 6th of July, all future Dearness Allowances come within the ambit of this Ordinance.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: That is your interpretation.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE. How the Ordinance can be applied here?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: When it is a question of payment to employees, the Ordinance is being applied retrospectively.

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you making a regular speech?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, there are agreements signed in so many companies according to which the money will be paid after the Ordinance has come into force. But it is payable from an earlier date. That has not been brought within the purview of this Ordinance.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: When the hon. Minister said that the Central Government was paying D.A., I hope it is relevant if I ask a question. Have we

received any complaints from any of the State Governments in general and State Government of Karnataka in particular to the effect that such unilateral sanctions of D.A. or increase in emoluments of the employees by the Centre invariably result in similar demands on the part of State Government employees for the increase? If there are such complaints received, what steps has the hon. Minister taken or he proposes to take in regard to redressal of the grievances of various States Governments in this country regarding their own difficulties or handicaps to pay their own employees?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: It is a fact that State Governments have been representing to the Central Government about the D.A. that is being paid. Also it is a fact that there is a similar demand from employees of various State Governments.

One of the reason for this delay in the last instalment being sanctioned was because the State Governments were informed of the position. But the position of the Central Government, as the hon. Member is aware, as has been stated very many times in this House, is that this is a commitment which the Government has made to its employees on the basis of a certain convention and on the basis of the recommendations of the Pay Commission. Therefore, there is no question of getting out of this commitment which has been made. As far as State Governments are concerned, they have to find their own resources to meet this demand for their employees.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मध्यम महोदय दामों में वृद्धि के लिए सरकार जिम्मेदार है, और अगर उस के बढने में सरकारी कर्मचारियों को मंहगाई भत्ता दिया जाता है, तो यह उन पर कोई एहसास या कृपा नहीं है। यह तो

मुद्रावजा है, जो उन को मिलना चाहिए, और जिस में से थोड़ा सा उन को दिया जाता है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कम्प.सरी डिपॉजिट के बारे में कोई फैसला करने से पहले सरकार ने केन्द्रीय कर्मचारियों के प्रतिनिधियों से वार्ता करने की आवश्यकता क्यों नहीं समझी। क्या इस बारे में कोई फैसला उन से चर्चा के बाद नहीं हो सकता था? यह यूनिवर्सल फैसला कर के उन को प्राधे डीयरनेस एलाउंस से वंचित करने का कारण प्र.र प्रोचित्य क्या है ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: As the hon. Member is aware, the ordinances will be discussed here, and this is a point which could be highlighted during that discussion. I may also give him this information that when the ordinances are discussed, even this question of 'Payable' and 'Paid' could be highlighted during the discussion so that a view could be taken. (Generally in reply to his question, I may say that we are in a serious inflationary situation which is threatening the very basis..... (Interruptions). I am not saying that we are not. After all, we are in the Government and we are doing it. If there is a serious inflationary situation which requires considerable effort today, then it is necessary, and it was absolutely incumbent upon Government, to take the decision which Government have taken by enacting these ordinances.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: My specific question was whether the representatives of the Central Government employees were consulted...

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: They were not.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: ...before issuing the ordinances.

Let him reply to the question and say 'Yes' or 'No'.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: The only reply that can be given is this. Considering the position that the trade unions have in this country today which is a reality and which the hon. Member should also know, it was not possible for Government to engage in consultations, because the urgency was such for issuing the ordinances.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: In view of the fact that dearness allowance is a result of dearness, that is rise in prices, what steps are Government thinking of taking to reduce the prices, what steps are Government vicious circle of prices chasing the wages and the wages in terms of dearness allowance chasing the prices is curtailed? Further, in view of the fact that near-fiscal measures including the recent ordinances and the Bills have failed to contain the prices, what other steps are Government proposing to take to hold the price-line?

(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : ऊपर से किसी जर्नलिस्ट की ऐनक में टैबल पर गिर पड़ी है (व्यवधान) कई बात नहीं है।

SHRI K. R. GANESH: The hon. Member has raised a very basic question. The Finance (No. 2) Bill was discussed here the other day, and the ordinances will also be discussed. What Government are doing to control the prices and contain the inflationary situation has been stated here from time to time. If you like, I can state some of those steps. The ordinances are one instrument. Credit squeeze is another. Increase in the availability of supplies and commodities is another instrument which has been used...

SHRI VASANT SATHE: All of them have failed to contain the prices,

SHRI K. R. GANESH: Also, non-plan expenditure has been curtailed. These are all the steps which have been taken. The cumulative effect of all these will take some time to be felt. Black money will also have to be attacked, and various other anti-social practices will have to be attacked. The public distribution system will have to be built. These are all the steps which have to be taken....

AN HON. MEMBER: By that time, the prices will rise still further.

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR: May I know whether after letting loose the monopoly capitalists, the hoarders and blackmarketeers to spend all their money in unholy methods all over the country, holding a tight purse on the poor undergo worker would bring down inflation at all?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: I agree with the hon. member that all these steps taken will not be complete unless an assault is made on black money and other anti-social practices.

SHRI J. MATHA GOWDER: Is it a fact that a representation has been made on behalf of plantation labour that the 50 per cent deposit should not be effected in the increase in their wages, DA, bonus etc? If so, what is the reaction of the Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: This question is about government employees.

SHRI J. MATHA GOWDER: Plantation labour is also affected. They have sent a telegram to the Prime Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: You give separate notice.

श्री सोमचन्द सोलंकी : जब दामों में वृद्धि होती है तो उस के एक दो साल के बाद पे कमीशन की नियुक्ति होती है । उस में टाइम लग जाता है और तब तक दामों की

वृद्धि दुगनी और तिगुनी हो जाती है । मैं मन्त्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इस तरह से दामों की वृद्धि होने से वह जनता को कहीं ले जायेंगे है क्योंकि उस का बोझ जनता पर पड़ता है जिस के कारण जनता चिल्लाती है, जब कि सरकार सोती है और मन्त्री महोदय झराम करते हैं । वह दामों को आसमान पर ले जाना चाहते हैं और पब्लिक को खड़े में डालना चाहते हैं ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वरि समझ में नहीं आता है कि अ का प्रश्न क्या है ।

SHRI SOMCHAND SOLANKI: What is the Government going to do to stop the rise in prices

MR. SPEAKER: You can take it up at some other time.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: This has taken half an hour. There are other important questions. Let us proceed to the next question.

MR. SPEAKER: I think Shri Lakkappa is perfectly right is demanding this. You always talk as if it is the right of every party and group to ask a question on each question which I do not accept. You can ask a questions some times.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: This is a wage freeze question.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate. It is a question. The normal practice in the question hour is not to have a debate on it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Fortunately this question has come in the ballot. I have been shouting hoarse in this House that a statement should be made by the Finance Minister. This is the beginning of a wage freeze. The workers have known that whatever he has said under the camouflage of an ordinance, he has brought in a wage freeze.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already said what you wanted to say.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Let me ask a question. I have spent 35 years of my life with government employees. They have been cheated by Government.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप के हाथ से सवाल छुड़ाया मुश्किल हो जाता है । आधा बंटा हो गया है । रोज पूछते हैं, एक दिन न भी पूछेंगे तो क्या फर्क पड़ जायगा ?

श्री एस० एम० बनर्जी : एक मिनट दे دیجिए, उस में क्या हो जाया ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप चाहते हैं तो इसपर शाम को हा. ऐन अवर डिस्कशन ले लीजिए ।

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: You have not put any question but you have taken ten minutes at least. This is a very important question and we must have our say on this matter... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: They create such a difficult situation. The normal practice is: one or two questions for the member who gives the question and then others rarely ask questions.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: This is illegal deduction. They have cheated the Central Government employees. Everything has been done to fleece the poor people while multi-millionaires remain as they are. I am a member of the J. C. M.; it was not consulted. The Central Government employees were never consulted.

SHRI SOMCHAND SOLANKI: What is the answer to my question; let the Minister answer my question.

MR. SPEAKER: I say there is nothing in your question... (*Interruptions*) One minute; you ask your questions.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Mr. Venkatasubbiah has already put it; this is the third occasion that an increase in the dearness allowance is due to the Central Government employees. It has been stated here that the first instalment was payable from April 1, and there was no Ordinance at that time. The Government has decided to pay only fifty per cent out of the increased dearness allowance. On the other hand, only two months back a committee was set up regarding the faulty method of calculation of dearness allowance by the Simla Bureau and that committee has given a clear verdict. That is about this Rs. 54 only. The jute workers are being cheated every month. Do the Government know about the faulty calculations? Do they consider it not only as a wage freeze but a wage cut when they have no guts to announce a price rise freeze.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: The hon. Member has expressed his views; he has not asked any question. He has referred to the faulty method of working out the cost of living index. The trade unions have been saying that it is a faulty method and Government has been trying to improve this method. Even according to this method, the burden has been very very heavy. There is no question of getting out from this particular position. The other point is, he says it is a wage freeze. I do not agree with it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Let me put a question, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you advising one question for one hour?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Even an unimportant question on family planning took about 25 minutes. This affects millions and millions of workers.

श्री कुल्लुब चन्द्र पांडे : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है । आप केवल 20 प्रश्न मंजूर करते हैं और उस में भी केवल एक ही प्रश्न पर सारा टाइम दे देते हैं ।

जा। ना चाहता हूँ क्या और प्रश्न महत्वपूर्ण नहीं है ?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: It is the beginning of a wage freeze. As a protest, on behalf of the millions of workers whom they have exploited for the last 27 years of freedom, we walk out. We shall meet them in the street of the country and not only in Parliament.

Shri S. M. Banerjee and some other hon. Members then left the House.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: This is a wage out and Government is depriving the millions of employees of their legitimate dues. We also walk out.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya and some other hon. members then left the House.

श्री मधु लिमये : मैं सरकार की नीतियों का विस्कार करता हूँ ।

Shri Madhu Limaye and some other hon. Members then left the House.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: When we are so agitated, why do you not allow a few more supplementaries? We do not get complete and adequate answers and that is why we are agitated.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: I have replied to all the questions.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: A large number of workers and Central Government employees and textile workers from my constituency, Ahmedabad, are suffering. You are forcing me to go out of the House by not allowing me to put a question.

MR. SPEAKER: If this is the way you all behave, I do not know how to carry on. At one time we had 40 questions in the list. Then we reduced it to half, 20 questions. Now every time I pass on from one question to the other, there is always commotion

and protest. Today we have already spent more than 40 minutes on one question and still you complain that I did not allow more supplementaries. You can ask for a debate, if you want. But it is not right during the Question Hour to deprive the other 19 members of their right to ask questions. To say that the other 19 questions can go unanswered because you are interested in one question is not fair.

Now, next question.

Purchase of Cotton by C.C.I.

*284. **SHRI VEKARIA:**

SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of cotton bales purchased by Cotton Corporation during the year 1973-74 from different States, State-wise; and

(b) whether the cotton purchase centre have been opened, if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA):

(a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The total quantity of cotton purchased by Cotton Corporation of India during the cotton year 1973-74 from different States, is 3,24,677 bales, the State-wise break-up of which is as under:—

	Bales
Punjab	1,78,362
Haryana	30,139
Rajasthan	40,354
Karnataka	53,268
Andhra Pradesh	16,074
Madhya Pradesh	2,797
Gujarat	2,993
Tamil Nadu	690
TOTAL	3,24,677