

और उसके बाद भी आप मिनिस्टर रहे । अब आप इन बातों को डिनाइ कर रहे हैं ?

श्री सतपाल मित्तल (पंजाब) : जब कोई नया मुसलमान बनता है तो वह नमाज ज्यादा पढ़ता है । आप यही से उठकर वहां पर गए हैं . . .

(Interruption)

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : जब मैं उस तरफ था तो मैंने उस वक्त भी यही बात कही थी और बीस बार कही थी . . .

(Interruption)

डा० प्रताप चन्द्र चन्द्र : शाही जी ने लार्ड मैकाले का जिक्र किया है । लार्ड मैकाले तो पिछली शताब्दी में गुजर चुके हैं । उसके बाद हमारी शिक्षा पद्धति में सुधार के लिए डा० राधाकृष्णन कमीशन बनाया गया । फिर उसके बाद कोठारी कमीशन बना । इनके अलावा भी कई अन्य कमीशन बन चुके हैं । उनके मुताबिक शिक्षा में सुधार के लिए हम कोशिश करते रहे हैं और अभी भी कर रहे हैं । इसलिए इस सम्बन्ध में मैकाले का नाम लेना ज्यादा सही नहीं है । वाइस-चांसलरों की नियुक्ति के बारे में जो सवाल उन्होंने उठाए हैं, उनके संबंध में मेरी गुजारिश यह है कि इस बारे में विश्वविद्यालय के कानून हैं और उन कानूनों के मुताबिक ही नियुक्तियां की जाती हैं । लेकिन इस सम्बन्ध में कोई इनफार्मल प्रेसर होता हो तो मुझे इसकी जानकारी नहीं है । लेकिन हमारे मंत्रालय से या मंत्रालय की ओर से वाइस-चांसलरों की नियुक्ति के बारे में कोई असर नहीं डाला जाता है, यह मैं कह सकता हूं ।

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

1. Grant of an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

SATISH AGARWAL): Sir, hon. Members will recollect that the Third Pay Commission had recommended to Government a formula according to which increases in D.A. to Central Government employees were to be given at specific percentage rates for every 8 point increase beyond 200 points in the 12-monthly average of the All India Consumer Price Index for industrial workers (1960—100). Nine instalments of Dearness Allowance were sanctioned according to this formula from time to time till the average index had reached 272 points. The Third Pay Commission had further recommended that when the average index crossed 272 points, Government should review the position and decide whether the D.A. scheme should be extended further or whether the pay-scales themselves should be revised. After the average index figure crossed 272 points, Government allowed, on an *ad hoc* basis, suitable increases in dearness allowance to mitigate the hardship caused to the employees. Five additional instalments of dearness allowance were allowed by Government to cover the index average of 312 points.

The 12 monthly average index crossed 320 points at the end of December 1977. Government have given careful consideration to the matter and have decided to sanction an additional (6th) instalment of dearness allowance to Central Government employees with effect from 1st January, 1978. This additional instalment would impose an additional burden of Rs. 50 crores in a full year.

While agreeing to sanction an additional D.A. instalment, in keeping with the practice so far followed, the form and manner in which the instalment should be paid is a matter which Government proposes to discuss with the staff side of the National Council of the JCM.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I should like to know in this connection one or two things. I expected that there will be a clear

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announcement here today.
1 P.M. Since you are making a statement, I would point out that the LIC Class III and Class IV employees would receive 15 per cent interest on the bonus which will now be given to them. Bonus for two years has accumulated and another year's is due. The Government will pay 15 per cent interest on such accumulation. Why should this not be done here also? We would like to know from the Government whether this matter is under consideration. The Supreme Court judgment has been a moral and legal blow to the Government because the Government wanted to take advantage of the emergency, continuing the wrong acts of emergency and yet claiming that it was dismantling the emergency apparatus. So, I would like to know why the Labour Ministry is not taking initiative in this matter with the Finance Ministry so that the Finance Ministry not only pays the bonus which is due to the workers and which had been wrongly denied by the previous Government and sought to be continued by this Government also, but, at the same time, also pays 15 per cent interest on what is due. In this connection, I would like to know how the Government views the other implications of the Supreme Court judgment with regard to the definition of the industrial force because the questions have come up with regard to dearness allowance and many other things. I would like to know how they are defining industry. Many other categories have come up today. We would like to know the Government's reaction to these things. Finally, I would like to know with regard to Central Government employees. We have read in the newspapers that the Central Government Employees Organisation has submitted a ten-point memorandum to the Government with regard to their wages and other demands, merging of dearness allowance with wages, minimum wage and many other things. I would like to know whether these matters are also under consideration of the Government so far as

Central Government employees are concerned. The Central Government employees, three million of them, have a very strong grievance against the present Government because what was promised to them 11 or 12 months ago is not being fulfilled by this Government. On the contrary, they have taken serious exception, along with other workers, to the appointment of the so-called study team by the Finance Ministry called the Boothalingam Committee with a view to freezing wages and so on.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA): Is it relevant to this?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I should like to know whether the Government will announce the disbandment of the notorious Bhoothalingam Committee. We all know who Bhoothalingam is. We had known him many years ago. I cannot think of any other greater conservative and reactionary bureaucrat than Mr. Bhoothalingam. And another bureaucrat-born Janata Finance Minister has thought it fit to appoint him to go into the question of wages, prices and other things.

DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA: Sir, the House has heard his opinion regarding the Bhoothalingam Committee many times previously also.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You may say whatever you like. I do not think the present Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, who is my friend, has inquired into it. (*Interruptions*).

DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA: Let him raise it in the course of debate.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Finally, I want to have a clear assurance that any solution will be according to the satisfaction of Government employees and Mr. Morarji Desai and others would not like to force something on them under one pretext or the other

because I find that the Government's anti-labour posture is more and more coming to the forefront today resulting even in firing taking place in Kanpur and other places.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN (Tamil Nadu): I am thankful to the Government for the announcement. But I would like to draw the attention of the Government to one thing. The recommendations of the Pay Commission were that when the cost of living index reached 272 points, a review should be made. A review has been made only to decrease the dearness allowance. The intention of the Pay Commission in asking the Government for a review being made was to merge dearness allowance with pay. In some cases, the dearness allowance is more than the actual pay. My request is that at least in the case of people who retire, the dearness allowance should be merged with pay. The dearness allowance is also a part of pay. This should be done before a decision is taken.

My request to the Government would be that at least in the case of retiring employees, the entire D.A. should be merged with the pay and the average pension calculated. Of course, now it is being calculated on the basis of 10 months' average pay. That would give more pension to the retiring Government employees. I would like the Government to take a decision in this regard and it would satisfy a lot of pensioners who are in these days getting only one-third of their pay as pension. At least they should take a decision in this regard in the case of the retiring employees in the Central services.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Sir, with all due respect to hon. Shri Bhupesh Gupta, the points that he has made out are not very much relevant to the statement that I have made on the floor of the House. Of course, I have noted the suggestions and the points and we will see to it that whatever can possibly be done will be done, which will be in the interest of the employees as a whole.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: What about my point?

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: The Government has not taken a decision with regard to it so far.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO (Orissa): Sir, how the consumer price index has been calculated is a fraud practice. This has been told to the Government umpteen number of times. What is being done by the Government in this regard?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Recently we pointed out how the cost of living index is a fraud.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed with the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, there is a statement by the Minister of Agriculture.

2. SUGAR POLICY

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): Sir, the House will recollect that at the beginning of the sugar season 1977-78 Government had decided that the dual pricing policy for sugar should continue and that the State Governments be requested to ensure that the cane producers got atleast the same price for cane as was being paid to them last year. The production of cane during this season has been an all-time record being about 10 million tonnes over that of 1976-77. Due to the consequent higher availability of sweetening agents and also for other seasons there has been a fall in the price of gur, khandsari and free-sale sugar. This has led to a situation where the sugar industry has felt that within the present price parameters it would not be economic for them to continue to pay the same cane prices to the growers as they had agreed to initially. In addition, because of the expected large production this year and the carryover from last year the sugar industry was also feeling severely the burden of having to carry substantial-

[Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh]

ly larger stocks than last year. It was also necessary to ensure that as much as possible of the additional production of cane this year was absorbed to avoid loss to the producer. The Government have taken note of these changed circumstances and keeping in mind the need to ensure a remunerative price to the cane producer and at the same time to enable the industry to function in a viable manner, have evolved new elements of sugar policy which are as follows:—

I. The weighted average ex-factory price for levy sugar on an all-India basis shall be fixed at Rs. 187.50 per qtl. The prices applicable for the different zones will be worked out and notified separately. These prices will take effect from 1st March, 1978.

II. Consequent on the fixation of the ex-factory prices for levy sugar, the retail price of levy sugar to the consumer would have had to be raised from the present level of Rs. 2.15 per kg. to Rs. 2.35 per kg. However, this price would be kept at Rs. 2.30. per kg.

III. Excise rebate will be given to encourage the factories to continue late crushing beyond 30th April, 1978 to absorb as much of the additional cane production as possible this year. Details of the scheme will be announced shortly.

IV. Export of 6.5 lakh tonnes of sugar (which is the quota in effect for 1977-78 under the International Sugar Agreement) will be permitted. This will help the sugar factories by reducing the stocks which they will otherwise have had to carry.

V. Since with the additional production the factories will have to carry larger stocks than last year, arrangements will be made to suitably increase the credit limit of the factories to cover the additional credit needs.

Government have taken these decisions in order to help to make the industry function in a viable manner

and to ensure that the cane growers continue to get the same price, that they have been getting. Government will also take steps to ensure that the prices of levy-free sugar in the open market are allowed to rule at the desired level. With all these steps and with the fixation of the ex-factory prices for levy sugar as announced, Government expect the factories to do their part by continuing to pay to the cane growers the same prices as were agreed to initially and maximising the drawal of cane by extending the crushing season.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA (Uttar Pradesh): How will you ensure all these things?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, these are pious wishes. We want a half-an-hour discussion on this matter. This statement is a sell-out to the industry at the cost of consumers. It is shameful for the Government to increase the price of sugar.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, the first thing that I would like to say about this statement is that it should be immediately discussed in this House. I am sure the other House will do that as a policy statement has been made. I felt as if a sugar magnate was reading out the statement and not a Minister of the Government, who is responsible to Parliament. You have seen the whole statement. It is filled with all kinds of promises to the sugar industry, whereas in fact it should have been nationalised. All that it deserves is to be nationalised and not fed and pampered and appeased in the manner in which the Government proposes to do it. They have been plundering the cane growers, they have been plundering the consumers and many other things they are doing. Sir, today some leaders from Uttar Pradesh an ex-M.P. belonging to our party, Mr. Vijay Pal Singh, who defeated Mr. Charan Singh in the 1971 elections, and others are on a hunger strike, or will be on hunger strike by now, in the Vithalbhai Patel House, against the sugar policy of the Government and the behaviour

of the sugar magnates and others in relation to cane growers.

Now, Sir, I feel that the whole matter should be immediately discussed. The prices will not come down and the cane growers will not get what they are entitled to get, and in the name of increasing the production, having blackmailed the nation for the past several years, now they are getting concessions in order that they can get more fattened. Sir, this is a policy which is a scandalous policy. Yet we have Mr. H.M. Patel saying that industry have let him down and Mr. Morarji Desai complaining that traders have let him down. But when it comes to the question of giving concessions, bounties, advantages, concessions, financial grants and credit from public exchequer is given to the thugs of sugar industry. They are the people who are appeased in this manner. This is a matter of shame. Sir, this Government should not have announced a policy statement of this kind without formulating a proper policy. Even here with regard to cane-growers you can see the manner in which he has tried to do it. You can understand what they will get. In U.P. many cane-growers were not even getting what was due to them. As a result, the case went to the court. Anyway, the Government had to give something, even 15 per cent interest....

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: On a point of order, Sir. I would like to know from you whether you are allowing a full debate on this. If not, how such long speeches are permitted. We have nothing to hide; we are prepared for a full debate... (*Interruptions*)

श्री हर्षदेव मालवीय : हाफ एंड आवर का सवाल नहीं है, फुल डिवेट होनी चाहिए। आज इस वक्त विट्ठलभाई पटेल हाऊस में केन ग्राउंस की कांफरेंस हो रही है, त्राहि त्राहि और हाहाकार मचा हुआ है। 13 रु० 50 पैसे का जो दाम तय हुआ है कोई नहीं

दे रहा है। 6 रु० क्वटल में गन्ना वहां विक रहा है। 75 फी सदी क्राप शुगरकेन की सूख रही है खेतों में, कोई खरीदने वाला नहीं है और जो हमारे पूंजीपतियों की एजेंट सरकार है वह पूंजीपतियों से खुशामद वाली बातें करती है। मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूं मान्यवर—मैं माननीय सदस्य से सहमत हूं—आप कृपा कर के डिवेट के—लिए समय तय कीजिए। यह बड़ी भारी गद्दारी केन-ग्राउंस के साथ हो रही है और अफसोस की बात है कि जिन जिलों से माननीय मंत्री जो आते हैं, जिन जिलों से माननीय गृह मंत्री आते हैं वहां के किसानों की गर्दन काटी जा रही है और कुछ नहीं हो रहा है। जो तो मान्यवर, मैं इस स्टेटमेंट के ऊपर आपना विरोध प्रगट करता हूं, मैं प्रोटेस्ट करता हूं और मैं चाहूंगा कि आप कृपा कर के कोई समय निश्चित करिए कि इस हाऊस में इस पालिसी स्टेट्मेंट के बारे में डिसकशन किया जाए।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Tell the Minister, this House is not the Board of Directors of the sugar magnates. It is the Parliament, and you should not make such a scandalous statement here when big issues are involved. Sir, what is that statements? It is a shocking statement.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have a long list of members who want to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. (*Interruptions*) देखिए, नोटिस दीजिए। जैसा निवेदन होगा उस पर विचार किया जाएगा। लिखित रूप में दीजिए, उस पर विचार किया जाएगा। First, I would like to know if the hon. Member would like to sit through lunch hour, because there is a long list of members who want to speak.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.