

vanced a loan of Rs. 23 crores to Shri E. N. Goenka for publishing some new editions of the 'Indian Express';

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has raised an objection on the grant of this loan; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (c) State Bank of India has not granted any advance to Shri R. N. Goenka for starting a new edition of Indian Express. Express Group of News Papers however, are having certain normal cash credit facilities with the Bank. In accordance with the practice and usage customary among bankers and also in conformity with the provisions of section 44(1) of State Bank of India Act, details relating to the accounts of individual constituents of the Bank cannot be divulged.

D.A. to Central Government Employees

*43. SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL:
SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA:
SHRIMATI HAMIDA
HABIBULLAH:
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI
KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:
SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the average 12-monthly consumer price index has risen to a level necessitating an increase in the Dearness Allowance to the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the question of granting an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance to Government employees in consonance with the rise in the price index; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (c)

Consequent on the 12-monthly average of the consumer price index crossing 312 points at the end of August, 1977, the question of payment of an additional instalment of dearness allowance to the Central Government employees with effect from 1-9-1977 is under the consideration of Government.

Retail Prices of Pulses

*44. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR
ADIVAREKAR: SHRIMATI LEELA
DAMODARA MENON: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the retail prices of each type of pulses including Rajma and Kabli Chana in each month since January this year; and

(b) the steps, which Government have taken to check the rise in prices of these commodities and to make them available to the weaker sections of the society at reasonable rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR GOYAL): (a) and (b) A statement has been laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix CIII, Annexure No. 2].

Public Distribution System

*45. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:
SHRI JAGAN NATH BHAR-
DWAJ: SHRI YOGENDRA MAK-
WANA: PROF. N. M. KAMBLE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 33 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th July, 1977 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a final decision regarding distribution of essential commodities