

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]
by the sober attitude of hon. Members like Shri Bhupesh Gupta. You can rest assured that reciprocation will be there.

I do not know whether reference can be made to the proceedings in the other House. Assuming that it can be, I may only put the record straight. Yesterday, in the other House, while I was already replying to one question by Mrs. Parvati Krishnan, one Member just intervened and said, "What right have you to ask this question. You are the people who were opposed to the strike." All the cryptic comment I made at that time was, though it is wrong she was with us upto the end. Some Members no doubt paid something and I made a categorical statement. For instance, one of the leaders had issued a statement at the fag end that region-wise the strike should be withdrawn. I must make it very clear that I do not wish to raise a controversy. I do not know what was the reaction of Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, but I know that many of his colleagues who were in the working class movement and who were associating themselves with the Railway strike did not like that. One of them publicly issued a statement and others said that this statement should have been avoided. My reference was only to that and nothing else. I also personally feel on second thought that even this remark should have been avoided. Though it might be based, according to me, on a statement of facts at the moment when the statement was made, I think it should have been avoided. It would have been better. I do concede that even such statements, though, according to me, they are based on facts, should be avoided; sometimes, it is not necessary to reveal all the facts, because they create an embarrassing situation. That is the only reason why such situations will be avoided in future. I would seek the co-operation of everyone in the House, including Shri Bhupesh Gupta. With that perspective and with that assurance of co-operation, I

would commend this Resolution to the consideration of the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to the nomination by the Chairman of six members from the Rajya Sabha to the Parliamentary Committee to review the rate of dividend which is at present payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues as well as other ancillary matters in connection with Railway Finance *vis-a-vis* the General Finance and make recommendations thereon."

The motion was adopted.

REFERENCE TO DEMAND FOR PAYMENT OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

SHRI S. W. DHABE (Maharashtra):
Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am very much thankful to you for giving me permission to mention the important question of payment of Dearness Allowance to the Central Government employees. The Central Government employees have been restive for the last three months about the question of payment of Additional Dearness Allowance. One demand is that the two instalments which were not paid earlier be paid now. The other demand is that the Dearness Allowance Formula be revised. Sir, there are 30 lakh Central Government employees in the country. The Central Secretariat and allied offices' employees recognised Federations, representing 50,000 to 60,000 employees in Delhi, have, in a statement issued in the Press—which has appeared in the *National Herald* on 3-8-77 and also in other papers—demanded immediate sanction of payment of Additional D.A. which is due for a long time, so as to minimise the evil effects

of ever rising cost of living, and has appealed to the Government to realise the gravity of the situation and take urgent steps to ameliorate their lot, especially of the low paid Central Government employees. Sir, in this connection, I had asked a question—Starred Question No. 3—in the sitting of the House on the 5th April, 1977 and the Finance Minister had replied that the pay structure recommended by the Third Pay Commission was linked to the 12-monthly average of the All-India consumer price index at the level of 200 of the industrial workers. And the scheme of D.A., which he had stated, had two features. One, that for every 8 point rise in the 12-monthly average of the consumer price index above 200, they will be paid D.A. And this was to cover the increase in the 12-monthly increase up to 272. The second—which is important—is that beyond 272, the question will be re-examined, regarding the DA scheme, and the pay-scales revised. Then there was a meeting between the Government Employees' Federation representatives and the Government of India and the Government of India accepted the scheme with some improvements. Nine instalments were paid upto 1-9-74—the scheme started in 1973—but by April 1975 there was a steep rise beyond 312 and the 15th instalment was not paid in April, 1975. Thereafter, the dispute started between the Government employees and the Government and though the price rise was there, they were not paid DA—the rise was up to 326. Now, Sir, the specific recommendation of the Pay Commission is that if it is beyond 272, then they must call the Government employees and revise the DA structure. In April, 1977, the index was 303, and the reply given in the Lok Sabha on 8th July, 1977 shows that from January, 1977 to April, 1977 the average index has gone up by 6 points. In the month of June, the price index of food has gone up by 8 points. Also in July itself this food index has gone up by 5 points. It has gone up by 13 points in the two months itself. I may mention that

before the Elections, the Janata Party leaders had stated publicly at the Boat Club and other places that they would restore the dearness allowance to the Government employees, and that they would see that the scheme would be modified, that justice would be done and that the Central Government accepted their demand, if they came to power. Sir, having come to power, they are not fulfilling the commitment. It is just like the Kissa Kurse Ka in the Janata Party style. Having come to power they do not want to fulfill the commitment regarding the C.D. Scheme this House had to take a strong stand and the C. D. deposits therefore were given in cash to the Government employees.

The two points which are engaging the attention of the working class are the dearness allowance and the bonus. I plead with the Government that they should not allow the agitation to grow. Let them call the Government Employees Federation representatives, discuss with them as recommended by the Pay Commission as the index is more than 272 points and restructure the dearness allowance formula. Today it is based on 12 months average. Every month the rise is taking place. For all the industrial workers, the cost of living index is linked up with month by month adjustment but for the Central Government employees to have it on 12 months average is really very harsh specially when the cost of living index is going up and the prices are not being controlled by the Government.

My second suggestion is that in order to give immediate relief as demanded by all the Central Government employees, as they are a fixed income group, they should be paid extra dearness allowance and some interim relief given to them. I appeal to the Government the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister to solve the problem expeditiously and to give the Central Government employees extra dearness allowance. Thank you.