

*401. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD :
SHRI KALYAN ROY :
SHRI SALIL KUMAR
SHRI S. KUMARAN :
SHRI SALIL KUMAR
GANGULI :
SHRI S. KUMARAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp decline in the payment of dearness allowance to workers in organised industries during the last six months;

(b) if so, the industries in which the payment of dearness allowance has substantially gone down giving the number of workers involved; and the extent of deduction; and

(c) whether this decline in wage cost has led to a fall in prices of manufactured goods?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) and (b) The Payment of dearness allowance in most of the organised industries is linked with changes in the consumer price index numbers, All India or local centres, as the case may be. Between July, 1975 and January, 1976, there has been a steady decline in the consumer price index numbers (The All-India Index (1960=100) declined from 324 in July, 1975 to 298 in January, 1976).

The actual decline in the quantum of dearness allowance in any particular industry would depend on the prevailing system of dearness allowance. Detailed information on the number of workers involved and the extent of deduction is not available.

(c) The wholesale price index for manufactures (base 1961-62=100) comprising 'Chemicals', 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' and 'Finished Products' declined from 248.6 in July, 1975 to 246.8 in December, 1975; it is however difficult to establish, in the short run, any direct correlation between the wholesale price index for manufactures and decline in the quantum of dearness allowance.

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भारत अमरीका के संबंधों का मजबूत बनाया जाना

* 402. श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : क्या विदेश मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारत-अमरीका के राजनैतिक संबंधों को और अधिक मजबूत बनाने के लिये कुछ नये प्रयास किये गये हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या परिणाम निकले हैं।

†[Strengthening of Indo-U.S. relations

*402. SHRI PRAKASH VEER SHASTRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any fresh efforts have been made for further strengthening Indo-American political relations; and

(b) if so, with what results?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री य. ब. चव्हाण) : (क) और (ख) भारत की नीति यह है कि संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका के साथ परिपक्व और रचनात्मक संबंधों के लिए कार्य किया जाए जो बराबरी पारस्परिकता, आपसी सम्मान और सद्भाव पर आधारित हों, भारत अमरीकी संयुक्त आयोग से दोनों देशों के बीच सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए एक संस्थात्मक रूपरेखा प्राप्त हुई है। अक्टूबर 1975 में आयोग के वार्षिक अधिवेशन के बाद से कई सेक्टरों/क्षेत्रों में क्रियाशीलता की दृष्टि से प्रगति हुई है। विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी उप-आयोग, जिसकी बैठक जनवरी 1976 में हुई, भारत अमरीका संयुक्त व्यापार परिषद की फरवरी में हुई पहली बैठक, और फरवरी 1976 में संग्रहालय उप-समिति की बैठकें मार्च 1976 में इतिहास प्रणालियों पर भारत-अमरीका संगोष्ठी तथा आर्थिक एवं वाणिज्यिक सहयोग संबंधी उप-आयोग की आगामी मार्च में होने वाली बैठक भी—ये कुछ ऐसे उदाहरण हैं जिनसे प्रकट होता है कि लाभदायक सहयोग के क्षेत्र खोजने के लिए दोनों ओर से प्रयास किये जा रहे हैं।

†[THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) India's policy is to work for mature and constructive relationship with the United States based on equality.

†[] English translation.

reciprocity, mutual respect and understanding. The Indo-U.S. Joint Commission provided an institutional framework for promoting co-operation between the two countries. After the annual session of the Commission in October, 1975, there has been progress in terms of activity in a number of sectoral fields. The Sub-Commission on Science and Technology, which met in January, 1976, the first meeting of the Indo-US Joint Business Council in February and the meetings of the Sub-Committee on Museums in February, 1976, the Indo-US Seminar on Methods in History in March, 1976, as well as the forthcoming meeting of the Sub-Commission on Economic and Commercial Cooperation in March are some of the instances of a mutual effort to seek concrete areas of fruitful co-operation.]

Linking of cities with Delhi through S.T.D.

*403. SHRIMATI AZIZA AMAM :

SHRI BHAIKAB CHANDRA
MAHANTI :

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G.
KULKARNI :

SHRI S. W. DHABE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of cities which are directly connected by S.T.D. with Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI S. D. SHARMA) : 24 cities are connected to Delhi by S.T.D. at present on full time basis. These are :—

1. Bombay
2. Madras
3. Trivandrum
4. Bhopal
5. Ahmedabad
6. Jalpur
7. Kanpur
8. Patna
9. Lucknow

10. Jammu
11. Agra
12. Meerut
13. Srinagar
14. Simla
15. Gandhinagar
16. Amritsar
17. Hapur
18. Modinagar
19. Gurgaon
20. Jullundur
21. Chandigarh
22. Chherata
23. Alwar
24. Sonapat

In addition, night S.T.D. service is also available to the following cities :—

- (i) Calcutta (one way with Delhi)
- (ii) Bangalore
- (iii) Coimbatore
- (iv) Madurai
- (v) Poona
- (vi) Surat
- (vii) Nagpur (one way from Delhi)
- (viii) Ernakulam.

Indians in Angola

*404. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Indians who have settled down in Angola ; and
- (b) what steps Government have taken to protect their interests during the present conditions in Angola ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) To our knowledge there are no Indian nationals settled in Angola.