

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported decision of Government not to pay Dearness Allowance instalments to Central Government Employees

SHRI V. K. SAKHLECHA (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I rise to call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the reported decision of the Government not to pay instalments of dearness allowance which have become payable to the Central Government employees.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Third Pay Commission recommended a scheme for the grant of dearness allowance to Central Government employees when the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers, with 1960 base, goes beyond the level of 200 to which the Pay structure recommended by them is related. The scheme of dearness allowance as finally accepted by the Government was more generous than the one recommended by the Pay Commission. In accordance with the scheme, as finally approved by Government, six instalments of dearness allowance have been sanctioned since 1st January, 1973, the last being effective from 1st April 1974, when the index average touched 248.

According to the latest available figures which relate to the end of September, 1974, the 12 monthly average cost of living index stood at 285.25. In terms of the Third Pay Commission's recommendations, three additional instalments of D.A. have fallen due, with effect from 1st June 1974, 1st July, 1974 and 1st September, 1974. Every instalment of dearness allowance entails an additional expenditure to the Central Government of a little over Rs. 50 crores, in a full year.

Government hope to be able to take a decision on dearness allowance payable to its employees in the light of all relevant considerations. It is not correct to say that the Government have decided not to grant the instalments of dearness allowance that have fallen due.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Goray.

SHRI N. G. GORAY (Maharashtra): Sir, I want to raise one or two questions only. One is that the Government has accepted that so far as the increase in prices is concerned, the prices have been rising steadily for the last 24 months, and the average rise is 2.5 per cent per month. Now if this is a fact—I suppose it is incontrovertible—then how is it that the Government has started with the decision not to give dearness allowance to these people who really are exposed to the price rise, as they are the people who suffer most? If the Government had succeeded in peg-

ging the prices, I can understand what is due to the workers being withheld for some time. But when the prices are constantly rising, and it is a fact which the Government itself has admitted, why should an impression be allowed to go out that the Government is not going to give them, dearness allowance? Therefore, I would request the Finance Minister to give an assurance that if, there is any such misunderstanding, the Government is not going to do so and the Government is going to give them all the dearness allowance that is due to them because of the rise in the cost of living.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, I thought the statement itself was quite clear. It is not correct to say that the Government have decided not to grant the instalments of dearness allowance that have fallen due. Therefore, now it is a question of taking into account the situation which has emerged during the last 18 or 24 months. The Pay Commission contemplated that when the index average reached 272, the whole situation should be reviewed. Perhaps when they made such a recommendation, they thought that this would be reached three or four years hence. But unfortunately it has been reached much earlier. And, as the hon. Member himself, was pointing out, the index was rising at the rate of 2.5 per cent every month. So this is the sort of abnormal situation with which we are faced. Therefore, we have to take into account how to bring about a situation of stabilising prices rather than merely distribute more and more money. Distribution of more and more money will again push up the prices and therefore it becomes a vicious circle. Therefore, we have taken a series of measures—some of them quite unpopular also—and as a result of that, for the last seven weeks, the wholesale prices have shown a reverse trend and there is a fall about 3.2 or 3.3 per cent in the wholesale prices. Therefore, we cannot say we have achieved nothing. We have reached a stage where we should not do anything which will again reverse the trend and push the prices forward. These are the considerations which the Government have to consider fully and investigate before introducing further inflation in the economy. There is no question of withholding what is due to our employees. But how to do it and when to do it are under the consideration of the Government.

SHRI D. THENGARI (Uttar Pradesh). In the first place, I should like to point out that the last increase in the dearness allowance was given with effect from 1st April, 1974. Four instalments of increase are now due to the employees. Secondly, you have rightly pointed out that the Third Pay Commission had recommended that should the price level rise above the 12th monthly average of 272 points, Government should review the position and

[Shri D. Thengari]

decide whether dearness allowance scheme should be extended further or the pay-scales themselves should be revised. In this respect we should like to have a categorical statement from the Minister whether the Government is going to revise the wage structure in view of this rise in index. The argument of the Government that payment of D.A. may cause further price rise does not seem to be valid in view of the fact that it is a recognised principle of economics that every wage rise is not responsible for price rise. Wage rise is responsible for price rise only to the extent where the wage rise is in excess of the productivity rise. In our country always we have the wage rise lagging behind the productivity rise. In view of this fact, I should like the hon. Minister to make a categorical statement giving the specific date by which all the instalments that are now due would be paid. I would also like to enquire why the recommendations of the Committee of Parliament appointed to report on the structure of pay, allowances, leave and pensionary benefits for the officers and staff of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha Secretariats have been made applicable only to officers and not the employees of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha ? Why this discrimination against the employees of Parliament ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMAKIAM : With regard to the second question, I should like to have notice because I do not have the facts with me. With regard to the assurance which the hon. Member wanted on the firm date on which the payment would be made, I have already stated that we are going into the whole question and I am afraid I cannot give a firm date. But we shall try to take an early decision.

SHRI D. THENGARI : Can you give an approximate date ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I am sorry. I cannot give it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : It is unfortunate that doubt and controversy should have arisen over a matter which we should have thought have been settled by the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission and by the acceptance of these recommendations by the Government. You know the prices are still very high and they are also rising in so far as the retail prices are concerned. We read in the newspapers about certain wholesale prices, that is, prices when you make bulk purchases or when you buy in quintals or some other big quantities. That should not guide Government in this matter. Government should really be guided

3 P.M.

by the prices at which Government employees are buying their necessities of life. There the position is bad. Besides, Sir, we have scarcities also. Therefore, if

there is any argument, that argument is the over-riding argument in favour of an early decision by the Government. In fact, the Government should not have allowed this thing to fall in arrears in this manner. That is what I would like to say. Now, Sir, the honourable Minister says that he would not give a firm date. Mr. Subramaniam surely knows by when he will give this. Sir, am I to understand that the Finance Minister is not clear in his mind about the time-limit by which he will take a decision ? He should enlighten us on this so that some of the elements in the controversy or the doubts and suspicions that are there may be removed. You may not name a date. But, surely you can say that you would not take any longer than such and such time. You can say that and that is very essential.

Then, Sir, he made another point. He has said that the Government will consider the question in the light of "relevant considerations". What are the relevant considerations ? The only relevant consideration is the fulfilment of the commitment on the part of the Government and the justification for the demand by the Government employees. That is all. What other relevant consideration is there which you will take into consideration ? I cannot understand that. Will he expatiate on that and say as to what he means by relevant considerations ? I say this because these are all their phrases and they are like the words "oath of secrecy" which some bureaucrats or some bright men have put in the statement not even knowing what they say. When I sit in your chamber, Sir, the Supreme Court Judge is not brought there to administer the oath. Who is to administer the oath there ? Mr. Subramaniam, please, tell your leader that you should read and you have to read something a little better than this, because the Constitution does not provide for such things at all and it is unconstitutional. Who will administer the oath ? Myself ? I shall administer the oath to myself or the Speaker or the Chairman ? Where is such a provision ? Where is the provision ? We do not have the oath at all. We do not take the oath of office to say such things. Such silly things happen in the Government. You are all intelligent people and yet such silly things happen.

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SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is more relevant than you are relevant to the House.

Now, Sir, I want to know what these relevant considerations are ? What does it mean ? Just as the word "oath" created some misgivings, this kind of a statement also is creating some misgivings. Mr. Subramaniam, I would request you to clarify this point.

In this connection, Sir, I would like to add one more thing. I do not accept his thesis, the thesis on inflation. Today, Sir, America is entering the phase of recession....

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : We are not discussing here inflation or recession.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The capitalist economy is in a state of a very grave crisis and this debate is not there, though it used to be, that wages are responsible for inflation. They are no longer responsible and we are seeing it in the US, in Italy, in West Germany, in Britain and in other countries. This kind of ideas and theories are not so much bandied about now as they used to be, because inflation is there because of so many other things. In America it is there because of its heavy military expenditure and this heavy military expenditure is responsible for the inflation that is there and in Europe it is there for some other reason. But, Mr. Subramaniam, in this country, the wages are chasing the prices. Here, you see, the prices are soaring up as if they are a powerful jet aircraft and, as far as the wages are concerned, they are just like a helicopter. I am making this comparison because in this country the prices are going up like the jet aircraft and the wages are limping behind or just trying to go up like a helicopter. Therefore, you should not think that the wages are responsible for the higher prices. But the question is how to bring the prices down and how to hold them and how to see that the real earnings which are falling are allowed to go up, as far as possible to the level of the existing prices. That is what should be done. I hope, Sir, that Mr. Subramaniam will make these things as part of his "relevant considerations". It may well be that he is taking the view, advised by some officers in the Ministry, that since they are checking the prices to fight inflation, therefore if you give dearness allowance now that will push up the prices, and hence it should be regarded as a relevant consideration and decision taken accordingly. It would be absurd. It would be wrong even from the economic point of view and, of course, from the point of view of commitment and other things. I would again ask Mr. Subramaniam : Kindly expedite this matter. We read in the papers that even the fourth instalment has become due. I do not know about it. But you have admitted that three are already due. Don't you think that people are suffering on account of that ? It is not a question of not getting something. You have taken an attitude which is causing suffering to these people in the conditions of scarcity and rising prices and needs. Therefore, from every point of view, you should give them what is their due, and such delay should not occur. Government is committed to it, and I hope you will implement it. Do I have a clear assurance that when you said that it would be done at an early date, that will not be too long ? Surely, in a matter

of weeks it should be done, if not earlier, and it should not take longer than this. After all, everything has been settled. As far as other things are concerned, there is no delay, and I hope you have taken the decision and put an end to this controversy.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, I always admire the persuasive capacity of the hon. Member. He has put his case as best as it is possible to do. It is not as if we are unaware of the suffering of our employees. As a matter of fact, we are fully aware of it, and we are trying our best to mitigate their suffering. This is one aspect which will have to be kept in mind.

Sir, the hon. Member said that we should not be guided by the wholesale price index. But the hon. Member is aware that retail price follows the wholesale price, even though there may be a small time-lag. Fortunately, during the last two years this downward trend has not been there. For the first time there has been a reversal of the trend. Let us recognize it.

Then, Sir, he raised the point, what are the relevant considerations which I have mentioned in my statement ? Sir, there are employees of the State Governments also, perhaps much larger in number than even the Central Government employees, whose basic pay structure is not as good as that of the Central Government employees. They are also suffering and, therefore, the Chief Ministers have written categorically that simply because there is the Nasik Press you should not go on taking decisions with regard to the payment of dearness allowance to the Central Government employees alone; their employees should also be taken into consideration; what the commitments would, on that basis, be, and how they are going to provide for it with their resources to meet their commitments. Therefore, we cannot just take some decisions in isolation and say : All right. I am the Finance Minister at the Centre: I am concerned with the employees in the Central Government and it does not matter what happens to the State Governments. As a matter of fact, in some families one brother may be an employee of the Central Government and the other in a State Government, or an employee in some neighbouring house may be a Central Government employee and in some other he may belong to a State Government. So you cannot just ignore it. That is why we have to go into all these matters and try to find a solution of the problem. As already stated, if this problem can be solved just by paying more and more allowances and printing more and more money perhaps that would be the easiest thing to do. Ultimately, this can be solved by greater production, and for greater production you would require greater investment also. Today we are looking into what the position is going to

[Shri C. Subramaniam]

be in terms of investment. If it is all going to be more and more current consumption, ignoring the aspect of investment, then you would be endangering the present and also jeopardizing the future. That will also have to be taken into account. This is the exercise which is now going on : what sort of investment programme we can have for next year. And what are the resources that would be available if we go on paying on that basis ? No doubt, the commitment has been made on the basis of the Pay Commission. I wish the Commission were able to solve all the problems. Then we can refer all matters to the Commissions and say, "These are the reports. Therefore, let us just see the reports and be content with them." Therefore, Sir, it is not such a simple situation as the hon. Member imagines. I am sure he is fully aware of it. But still he has to satisfy certain sections. . .

(Interruption)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : . . of course, I am happy to say, at least you satisfy the demand of Your Government employees. Their demand is just. You have not said that their demand is unjust. And do I understand that the State Government are going to veto the commitment you make ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I am not vetoing the commitments at all. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Investment is - not by taking the money from the Government employees.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I was only saying that The hon. Member is aware of the other side of the things also as effectively as he knows the case he put forward in the House. That is what I was making out. If -he says, "No, no. I do not know that side," then, I am not prepared to believe it. Therefore, Sir, this is unfortunately the situation in which we are caught up. And I want to give the assurance to this House more than that assurance to our employees that we are fully aware of the situation in which they are functioning and in which they are living. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You are not.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : As the hon. Member pressed we shall try to expedite the decision as quickly as possible.

SHRI D. THENGARI : Sir, I want a clarification from the Minister. The hon. Minister is repeating 'the instalments'. I should like to know whether it is not four instalments. In our view, it should be four instalments because the last payment was on the 1st of April.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : We are now considering three instalments. What is the use of pressing further ?

SHRI D. THENGARI : You should kindly clarify the position.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I think, the fourth instalment has also become due. But, we are now discussing the three instalments already due.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : If you confiscate the benami property of the smugglers, I think you will have a lot of money to invest.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN (Tamil Nadu) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I do fully agree with the difficulties expressed by the Finance Minister on behalf of the Government of India. But, Sir, the Government of India must realize that the Central Government and State Government employees are the backbone of the democratic administration. Sir, it is very relevant here to quote what the then Secretary of State for India, Mr. Ernest Bevin said :

Sir, I quote :

"The Government employees should be taken care of by the Party in power or else, the Government employees will be instigated by the Opposition parties ..."

Sir, what is happening today is exactly what Mr. Ernest Bevin said some years ago. Therefore, Sir, the Government employees should not be given a step motherly treatment. You should have a uniform policy. Here, the Government of India is complaining about inflation if the DA is granted to the employees. Of course, if the Central Government employees are granted DA, naturally, the State Government employees also demand for an equal treatment with the Central Government employees. But why don't you control ? There are others also who are getting. There is a wage-hike in the HAL. I do not say that they should not be given. But they have a wage-hike whereas the Central Government employees are not given. Therefore, it creates a problem among the Government employees. They say, "Are we not being discriminated against ?" Here the Government is not controlling at all. Some employees are getting and the others are not getting. There are 2 crores of wage-earners in this country. Out of which, one crore are Central Government, State Government and semi-Government employees. The other one crore are in industries and factories. I Therefore, there should be a uniform policy. When are we going to strike a national wage structure? If that is there, there would not be so many grudges and agitations in the country. It is due for a long time.

Sir, the Minister replied that he was taking steps. What kind of steps has he been taking ? He said for the last 7 weeks the cost of index has gone down. No it has not. A kilo of rice here costs Rs. 3.50; in Madras State a measure of rice costs Rs. 7. How can a Central Government employee be denied the D.A. to get his food and live and come here and work for the

betterment of the nation and the country ? As per the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission, which has been accepted | —the Minister also said that—as soon as the cost of living index reaches 272 points, j Government must revise the wage structure. | Now if the Government accepts the recommendation of the Pay Commission to restructure the wage structure, certainly the need-based minimum would be granted. That was also one of the demands of the Central Government employees. Naturally, if a Class IV man gets Rs. 340 by merging the D.A., that becomes the need-based minimum. So to that extent you also meet that demand. To my calculation if Rs. 340 becomes the basic pay, it would involve about Rs. 150 crores. Why not work it out ? Why there should be trouble only with regard to Central Government employees ? And, also, Sir, the Government must implement one of the accepted demands, viz. that of opening fair price shops for them all over the country. It is now easy to procure; even the State Governments are procuring. In early days, th; British Government could not do that because there were some difficulties. Now, the Government has got the machinery for procurement. It is easy to procure and feed the working classes ;ill over India to see that the working classes are satisfied.

The Minister also said about production. Yea how can the production increase when the working classes are starving ? Therefore, all these points should be taken into consideration by the hon'ble Minister. And I say it is bettr that they merge the D.A. as per the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission. Naturally there will be contentment amongst the workers and they will be helping the nation because they are not ungrateful, as has been proved by the Central Government employees. As far as the Railways are concerned, 10 lakh *tail*-waymen are loyal to the nation. So take advantage of that. Take back the remaining Railway employees. Liberalise the wage structure and accept the recommendation of the Third Pay Commission.

iHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, again the same points have been put in a different language, perhaps with some greater emphasis also. I do agree with what the hon'ble Member said, but for this the Secretary of the State's statement was not necessary. I am completely in agreement with the statement that Government employees are the backbone of the administration. It is because hundreds of thousands of employees are functioning perhaps unheard and unrecognised that we are able to function here. Without them, we may not be able to function here at all. It is a very well known fact.

The other relevant point which the hon'ble Member made—and which others did not make—is the discriminatory aspect of it. Whereas one sector of the working

classes, employees in various industries, even in public sector industries ate automatically getting the D.A.. it is the Government servants who are discriminated against. Yes, to a certain extent. As a matter of fact, this is the lever which I am trying to use for the purpose of getting an early decision. I do agree that you cannot take one decision with regard to one sector and another decision with regard to another sector. We have to take a national wage policy decision. I am in full agreement with that. That is one of the considerations which we have to fully take into account before we make any decision either this way or that way. Then, he mentioned the supply of essential articles. Ultimately this is what I have been pressing all along, even when I was Finance Minister in the State Government. Ultimately in a developing country, unless we have a well-knit rational system for the supply of essential commodities to the vulnerable sections of the community,, we are not going to solve the problem of inflation which affects, in turn, the various aspects of development also. We have been emphasising this aspect, but still I am afraid we have not yet reached a stage where we can say : Yes, we have evolved such a system of distribution. It is in this context I would like to emphasise that a department of essential supplies has been created and it has got to be the function of this department to evolve a system by which at least the vulnerable sections would be ensured that not all commodities but at least five or six essential commodities like I cereals, sugar, edible oil, domestic fuel, standard cloth—immediately these five come to the forefront—are made available at reasonable prices, without being affected by inflationary trends. That is the only answer. I want to assure this House that my colleague, Shri T. A. Pai, is fully involved in it and every day he is giving consideration to this aspect. Recently he had consultations with the marketing experts also to find out what sort of organisation should be built up. It is no use depending upon a bureaucratic set-up to deliver the goods — under a rational distribution system. : Then, is an emergency the civil supplies department may be able to deliver the j goods, but if it has got to be a system ! which would form part of the entire eco-' nomy as a long-term measure, then it will i have to be a proper business organisation. , When we say business organisation people think that it is only in the private sector. It would be a business organisation in the public sector, a rational distribution system in the public sector would take care of it. These are the various aspects which will have to be taken into consideration. Therefore it is not as if I am unaware of the difficulties. As a matter of fact, this has been my nightmare for the last one or two weeks, viz., how to deal with the situation and meet the requirements of our

[Shri C. Subramaniam] employees who are undoubtedly suffering because of the rising trend of prices. I would like to assure hon. Members that I am as such concerned as the hon. Members are with regard to this problem and we shall try and deal with it as best as possible.

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN (Jammu and Kashmir) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a particular section of employees of All India Radio and I would like to know the Government's position *vis-a-vis* newscasters, news readers, news reader-CHM-translators and translators and staff artistes. I would like to have a categorical and positive assurance with regard to the benefits to this section of the people in the light of the Third Pay Commission's Report. Their fee scales were fixed by the Government in 1971 according to the rationalised fee scales announced by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, *vide* their booklet "Rationalisation of Fee Scales of Staff Artistes of AIR in 1971". In this booklet the Ministry had made the following promise :—

"This revision of fee scales is essentially in the nature of rationalisation."

The question of further revision of these scales will be considered at a later stage in the light of decisions which the Government may take on the recommendations of the Pay Commission with regard to salary scales of comparable categories of Government employees of AIR. Having implemented the first part of the rationalisation scheme, *i.e.*, fixing the rationalised fee scales as announced by the Government in the booklet referred to above, the Ministry must now implement the second stage of the scheme....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Calling Attention relates to the dearness allowance instalments and you are talking about the pay scales and other things.

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN : My submission is that they are not getting the benefits of the recommendations of the Pay Commission. So I think this is a relevant point. Now, the Ministry is hesitant to honour the commitments now and as an excuse it has put forward an unnecessary controversy about the Job Evaluation Committee's Report. This unfortunate controversy has been deliberately put forward by the Government to stop further revision of their pay scales as already promised by the Government. In the case of all other Government employees, the Government has started implementing the recommendations of the Pay Commission, but tragically they have been ignored in this respect and the benefits of the Pay Commission's recommendations have been withheld from them

in these days of soaring prices and higher cost of living. Even when the Job Evaluation Committee was doing its work of assessing the job of various categories of artistes, the Government issued option letters to individual staff artistes. Even after the Committee submitted its report, option letters were issued to staff artistes as late as September, 1973. All these clearly show that the Government did not consider it was bound by the Job Evaluation Committee's report for the implementation of the rationalised fee scales announced by them. When this is so they do not find any reason why the Government should not go ahead with the implementation of the second part of their scheme as promised in the booklet. The Ministry should issue option letters to individual staff artistes as they did earlier and implement the promise made by them and revise their pay in the light of the recommendations of the Pay Commission. Further, it is important to bear in mind that every staff artiste has entered into individual contracts with the Government. Hence, Government as an honourable employer should now honour its commitment with that individual.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, I am glad you pointed out that the hon. Member was dealing with a different subject. When he mentioned this to be relevant, evidently he meant that this was important. But all important things are not necessarily relevant in a particular context. I shall certainly send the hon. Member's representation to my colleague in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Perhaps he may have a look into it.

श्री राजनारायण : मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो महंगाई भत्ते के भुगतान का सवाल उठा हुआ है तो अब तक सरकार यह हैसियत क्यों नहीं बना पाई है कि जो बचन देती है उस बचन का पालन करे। श्रीमन्, यह कह देना कि आर्थिक संकट है, यह अपने देश में ही नहीं है विश्व में भी है। महंगाई है तो केवल अपने देश में ही नहीं है, विश्व के अन्य मुल्कों में भी है। मैं समझता हूँ कि आज अपने देश की जो स्थिति है और विशेष तौर से कर्मचारियों की इतनी दयनीय है कि सरकार का यह बहाना मात्र उनके जीवन-निर्वाह को दूधर कर देगा। हम तो यहाँ पर बैठे बैठे कभी कभी बहुत ही दुखी होते हैं जब कि सदन का समय आधा घन्टा, 15 मिनट, 20 मिनट बढ़

जाता है। इसलिए दुखी होते हैं कि जो राज्यसभा के यहां कर्मचारी हैं इनकी तनख्वाह को बढ़ाने की तरफ कोई ध्यान

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, हमारी सभी बातें रिलेवेन्ट होती हैं। यह कैसे हो सकता है कि यहां पर कोई घटना घटे और वह रिलेवेन्ट न हो।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is not relevant to the Calling Attention Motion.

श्री राजनारायण : दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जो दिल्ली की पुलिस है वह केन्द्रीय सरकार के तहत आती कि नहीं आती है। मैं समझता हूं कि दिल्ली की पुलिस केन्द्रीय सरकार के तहत आती है। मुझे लगातार इस बात की जानकारी है कि जो पे कमीशन की रपट है वह दिल्ली पुलिस में लागू नहीं की जा रही है। क्यों ? पे कमीशन की रपट दिल्ली पुलिस के कर्मचारियों पर भी लागू होनी चाहिए। दिल्ली की पुलिस के कर्मचारी क्या कोई धनी व्यक्ति हैं ? दिल्ली की पुलिस में गरीब घरों के नवजवान बेटे आते हैं और यहां की पुलिस में भर्ती होते हैं और वही पुलिस के लोग हम पर डंडा भी चलाते हैं। मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि भले ही ये लोग हम पर डंडा चलाये, मगर ये लोग मनुष्य हैं। उनके लिए आज बहुत अधिक महंगाई है। इसलिए

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is not relevant, Mr. Rajnarain. You are committing the same mistake that the hon'ble Member who spoke before you committed.

दिल्ली पुलिस के कर्मचारियों के महंगाई भत्ते में और उनकी तनख्वाह में बढ़ोतरी होनी चाहिए।

श्री देवराव पाटिल (महाराष्ट्र) : स्टेट गवर्नमेन्ट के कर्मचारियों के बारे में अभी सरकार विचार कर रही है और इसीलिए यह मामला रुका हुआ है।

श्री राजनारायण : दिल्ली तमाम स्टेटों की तरह नहीं है। दिल्ली का मामला दूसरा है।

तीसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि आज यह पहली हल नहीं हुई है कि रेल के कर्मचारी केन्द्रीय सरकार की सेवा में आते हैं कि नहीं ? मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जो रेल के कर्मचारी हैं वे कहाँ हैं ? वे केन्द्रीय सरकार की सेवा में आते हैं या नहीं आते हैं क्योंकि इसमें पूर्व एक मन्त्री रहे हैं, वे पहले कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी के कांडहोल्डर थे, वे इस सवाल का जवाब आधे घंटे तक नहीं दे पाये और चक्कर खाते रहे ? इसलिए मैं माननीय वित्त मन्त्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि रेल कर्मचारियों के लिए महंगाई भत्ते का प्रश्न क्या है ? उनकी तनख्वाह का क्या प्रश्न है ? क्या वे लोग केन्द्रीय सरकार के कर्मचारियों की श्रेणी में आते हैं या नहीं आते हैं ? अगर नहीं आते हैं तो क्यों नहीं आते हैं ? मैं चाहता हूं कि सरकार इन तमाम प्रश्नों का उत्तर दे और सरकार यह बहाना कैसे कर सकती है कि आर्थिक स्थिति बड़ी दयनीय है या अधिक संकट है ? जब सरकार अपने खर्चे कम नहीं करती है मन्त्रियों पर होने वाले खर्चे कम नहीं होते हैं, फिजूल-खर्ची कम नहीं करते हैं तो सरकार इन सारी बातों का बहाना कैसे कर सकती है ? मैं इस बात को गूब अच्छी तरह से जानता हूं कि सरकार की ओर से फिजूलखर्ची हो रही है और अनावश्यक हंग का खर्चा हो रहा है। जिस जगह पर 1 रु० खर्च होना चाहिए वहां पर 10 रु० खर्च किए जा रहे हैं। सारी

[श्री राजनारायण]

योजनाओं का 50 प्रतिशत धन चोर-बाजारी में जा रहा है, भ्रष्टाचार में जा रहा है, लेकिन सरकार की तरफ से इस पर कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया जा रहा है और एक एक मन्त्री के बारे में देखा जाए। एक एक मन्त्री पर कितना खर्चा किया जा रहा है, इसको देखा जाए। यह खर्चा तब है जब कि मन्त्री दिनर अपने घर में नहीं करते हैं। किसी भी मन्त्री के बारे में पूछिये या उनकी खोज कीजिये तो बताया जाता है कि मन्त्री महोदय दिनर पर गए हैं। फाइलें देखने की तो मन्त्रियों को फुर्सत ही नहीं है। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि मन्त्रियों को अपने सभी खर्च कम करने चाहिए और कर्मचारियों को उतना महंगाई भत्ता तो दिया जाना चाहिए जितनी महंगाई बढ़ी है। इस सरकार की महंगाई को घटाने की कोई योजना नहीं है, इसलिए महंगाई तो फिर बढ़ेगी। भारत सरकार की दाम बांधने की कोई योजना नहीं है। आज पिछले 27 सालों से यह सरकार राज कर रही है, लेकिन आज तक कोई योजना देश के सामने नहीं रखी गई है जिससे दामों को बांधा जा सके। ऐसी हालत में दाम कैसे बन्धें? इसलिए जब तक दाम नहीं बान्धे जायेंगे तब तक महंगाई बढ़ती जाएगी। इसलिए मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जीवनोपयोगी सारी सामग्रियों की कीमतें किसी बुनियाद पर तय होने चाहिए। जैसे मैंने बार बार कहा है, सारी चीजों की कीमतें लागत खर्च के इयौड़े से किसी भी हालत में ज्यादा नहीं होनी चाहिए। अगर आज यह सरकार तय कर दे और कह दे कि राज्य कर्मचारियों या अन्य सेवाओं के कर्मचारियों के महंगाई भत्ते का सवाल हल हो जाएगा तो फिर इस प्रकार के प्रश्न नहीं उठते रहेंगे। इसलिए मेरा विनम्र निवेदन है सरकार से और माननीय मंत्री जी से भी—बहुत दिनों के बाद यह विभाग उनके पास आया है, श्री सुब्रह्मण्यम

साहब के पास—कि वे अच्छी तरह से अपने सरकार की एक नीति बनवा दें कि जैसे कपड़ा है, तो रुई में और कपड़े में क्या रिश्ता होगा? कपड़ा बनाने में जितनी लागत लगती है विक्री उसकी कितनी बढ़ोतरी पर होगी? हमने अपना सुझाव दिया है : अगर एक गज कपड़ा जो हमारे सेन्ट्री जनरल पहने हुए हैं, अगर 5 रुपये गज के हिसाब से रुई लगती है तो साढ़े सात रु० गज से ज्यादा महंगा वह कपड़ा न बिके। यह हमारा सुझाव है। इसी तरह से चीनी है, इसी तरह से अन्य सामग्री है, लोहा है, कोयला है, ... (समय की घंटी) ... और सब चीजें हैं, तो अगर हमारे इस सुझाव को सरकार स्फाई से आकर स्वीकार करे तो देश की समस्या का समाधान होगा और लोग ठीक से काम करेंगे बरना दिन-भर काम करने के बाद जब वह घर पहुंचे तो बराबर मन में चिंता रहेगी कि घर में रोटी मिलेगी कि नहीं मिलेगी। जब तक वे इस चिन्ता से मुक्त नहीं होंगे तब तक देश की समस्या का समाधान असंभव है।

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, I can straightway say with regard to the first two points, the Rajya Sabha servants and the Delhi Police, I have been, clean bowled by the hon. Member because I do agree I am quite ignorant about the situation with regard to these two. Then he posed a question whether* 'Railway employees would come under Central Government employees. My impression is that they are Central Government employees. When dearness allowance is granted to the Central Government employees, my understanding is that they would also get it. Then he made very many useful observations, particularly with regard to expenditure at higher levels. I do agree that we have to set an example first before we ask the people at the lower level to be austere, to observe austerity or to lead a simple life. I am in complete agreement with him and I would assure the hon. Member that we shall try to see how we can convince the people that we are not only spending actually loss but also convince them that we are trying to spend less. Then -with regard to the fixing of the prices, he gave some home-truths with regard to the relationship between raw materials and the ultimate product, the consumer product. Sir, these are matters which will be taken into consideration in trying to improve the production and stabilise prices. Therefore, it is

SHRI RABI RAY: Yes, he has been

prevented.

on this basis that we are looking into the problem. Let us hope, while we have not, according to the hon. Member, achieved anything during these 27 years, at least in the near future, to achieve something which would satisfy the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Motion. Mr. Shah Nawaz Khan.

MOTION REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER OF RAJYA SABHA TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) BILL, 1973

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Om Mehta, I beg to move the following motion:

That Shri Om Mehta be appointed to the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill, 1973, in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha from the membership of the said Joint Committee on the 22nd November, 1974."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Sakhlecha will initiate the discussion under Rule 176.

**COMPLAINT RE. NON-RECEIPT
OF MESSAGE ABOUT EXTERNMENT
OF
SHRI RAJNARAIN
BY BIHAR * GOVERNMENT**

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन्, मैं आपकी आज्ञा से एक प्वाइन्ट रैज करना चाहता हूँ। आपने समाचारपत्रों में पढ़ा होगा कि जब मैं परसों यहाँ दिल्ली से पटना पहुँचा तो . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Rajnarain. We have already started the discussion.

श्री रबी राय (उड़ीसा) : उनको गिरफ्तार करके एक्सटर्नमेंट कर दिया बिहार सरकार ने। आपको इत्तिला नहीं पहुँची डिपुटी चेयरमैन साहब? देखिए, बिहार सरकार कितनी पाखी सरकार है?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: As far as we are concerned, if a Member is arrested and if he is prevented from carrying out his duties as a Member of Parliament, then, of course, we are informed. But otherwise, externment order is not intimated.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, मैं यह कह रहा था कि पिछली मर्तबा जब मैं सदन में रहा तब भी और जब से मैं दोबारा इस राज्य सभा का सदस्य हुआ हूँ मैं देख रहा हूँ कि जब जब बिहार या दूसरे राज्य से निष्कासन हुआ है, गिरफ्तारी हुई है, तब उसके सम्बन्ध में नोटिस हम लोगों को वाक्याद मिला है। और वहाँ के गिरफ्तार करने वाले अधिकारी ने वाक्याद आपको सूचित किया है? इस बार हमने एक नई बात देखी है और हमने आज सवेरे ही इस बात की जानकारी पाने की कोशिश की कि बिहार की पुलिस ने या बिहार की मजिस्ट्रेसी ने राज्य सभा के सचिवालय को कोई सूचना दी है या नहीं? आज सवेरे करीब 12 या साढ़े बारह बजे तक तो यह सूचना जब हमने मालूम किया था नहीं पहुँची थी और अब पहुँच गई है तो हम नहीं कह सकते हैं। हम इस बात को जानने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि इस तरह की सूचना उनको देना अनिवार्य था या नहीं। इस चीज पर ग्रहण हो सकती है। हमारी जितनी जानकारी है, जहाँ तक ब्रिटिश पद्धति की जानकारी है और जितनी जानकारी आप लोगों के साथ संसद में बैठकर हुई है, उन्हें जानकारी देनी चाहिए और हर हालत में देनी चाहिए। अगर एक संसद का सदस्य गिरफ्तार किया जाता है तो इसकी सूचना उन्हें अवश्य देनी चाहिए। यह मैं कोई अपने लिए व्यक्तिगत सवाल नहीं उठा रहा हूँ। जहाँ तक व्यक्तिगत सवाल का सम्बन्ध है, मैं उस चीज से निवृत्त लूंगा।

श्री उपसभापति : अगर गिरफ्तारी हुई है, तो देना चाहिए।

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, हम को वहाँ से निकाला गया। हम जैसे ही हवाई जहाज