

(b) if so, by how much and what is the present index?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) and (b) The Monthly All-India Working Class Consumer Price Index is published regularly after six weeks from the end of the relevant month. February is, thus, the latest month for which the index is available; the index for March, the first post-Budget month, will become available in the second week of May.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, on a point of order. The Consumer Cost of Living Index is issued every week. The Minister is misleading the House when he says that it is issued for a month and thereafter, for the succeeding month, it is issued after the expiry of six weeks from the end of the preceding month. They are issued every week, Sir, and the Press Information Bureau circulates them. So the Minister has misled the House in trying to evade an answer to the crux of the question.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : Sir, according to the information which I have, in terms of the Desai Ban Award of June, 1962, the All-India Working Class Consumer Price Index has to be published regularly in the Gazette of India after a delay of not more than six weeks from the end of the relevant month.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : It is issued every week. It is issued every week. He has either been misinformed, or he is misleading the House.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : I am not the least trying to mislead the House. I am stating the position as per my information (*Interruptions*). I would certainly check up, and if there is any wrong information that I have been supplied with, I would certainly correct it.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Mr. Chairman, because the Government do not have any information as to what is the impact of the latest Budget on the consumer price index, may I know this, Sir? Have they any pricing policy? Because of the Budget have there any price policy or any policy to stabilise prices because in the Fourth Plan and in the earlier three Plans nothing is given regarding the pricing policy. May I know, Sir, what attempts Government have made, what

is the policy regarding stabilising of prices and what the Government propose to do? If they are going to give some information after the Price Index Report is received, with the permission of the hon. Chairman we may have a discussion on the subject of the increase in the consumer price index when the Government receive a report about this, as stipulated by them, after six weeks, in the second week of May, when we will come to know the impact of the Budget on the consumer price index.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : As far as the pricing is concerned, certainly the prices of important commodities are taken into account, and the Government and the Reserve Bank and all banking institutions constantly endeavour to see that the price index does not rise. But, Sir, some price increase.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : What is the endeavour made?

SHRI P. C. SETHI : Now about the impact of the Budget on prices. As far as the position about the price increase after the presentation of the Budget is concerned, there has been about one per cent increase.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

राज्यों को केन्द्रीय ऋण

* 34. श्री सूरज प्रसाद : क्या प्रधानमंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि :

(क) इस समय केन्द्रीय सरकार के ऋणों की कितनी कितनी राशि राज्य सरकारों के नाम बकाया है ;

(ख) क्या बिहार सरकार ने हाल में केन्द्रीय सरकार से निवेदन किया है कि वह उसे अनुत्पादक प्रयोजनों के लिये अब तक दिये गये ऋण को माफ़ कर दे ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस बारे में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

•(•)CENTRAL LOANS TO STATES

*34 SHRI SURAJ PRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of Central Government loans due from State Governments at present;

(b) whether the Government of Bihar have recently requested the Central Government to write-off the loans so far advanced to them by the Central Government for unproductive purposes; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० सी० सेठी) : (क) 1969-70 के संशोधित अनुमानों के अनुसार 31 मार्च, 1970 को 5873.57 करोड़ रुपये की रकम बढ़ाया था ।

(ख) जी नहीं ।

(ग) यह सवाल पैदा ही नहीं होता ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C SETHI) : (a) Rs. 5873.57 crores on 31st March, 1970 as per Revised Estimates of 1969-70-

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.]

MINING OF CAPTIVE JAT RAJ SEAM OF KORBA

*35. SHRI NIRANJAN VARMA : SHRI RAM SAHAI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madhya Pradesh Government had agreed to the mining operations of this Captive Jat Raj Seam of Korba by the National Coal Development Corporation on the assurance of the Government of India representatives to the effect that the cost of middlings would be about Rs. 10/- per ton and the raw coal would be even cheaper;

(b) if so, the price now charged and the reasons therefor;

[] English translation.

(c) whether the high price results in uneconomic power generation at Korba;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to consider reduction in the price of the above commodities;

(e) if the reply to part (d) above be in the negative, whether Government will transfer the mines to the Madhya Pradesh Government; and

ff) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI JAGANNATH RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) From 16th November, 1959 the Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board have been paying a price of Rs. 16.73 per tonne only for Jatraj coal supplied by the National Coal Development Corporation. This is much less than the price billed by the Corporation. The dispute regarding the price is currently under arbitration.

USE OF D. D. T.

*36. DR. DEPIPRAASAD CHATTO-PADHYAYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND LR-BAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported expert opinion that use of D. D. T. poses health hazard; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : (a) The Government is aware of the reported apprehension about the likely injurious effects of D. D. T. on human life.

(b) An Expert Committee comprising the representatives of Ministries of Agriculture and Food, Petroleum and Chemicals, Health, Indian Council of Medical Research, W. H. O., U. S. A. I. D. and Pesticides Association of India is looking into the effects of the continued use of D. D. T. and other pesticides. This committee has set out guidelines for further research on the possible hazards of D. D. T. to human health.