

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Is it not a fact that the Finance Commission has recommended that the extra dearness allowance sanctioned by the States up to a certain date will have to be met by the Central Government?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Obviously not; because if the Finance Commission had recommended we would have had to pay.

†DELAY IN EXECUTION OF PROJECTS DUE TO NON-AVAILABILITY OF FOREIGN AID

*366. SHRI M. S. OBEROI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the execution of certain planned projects have been delayed or partly suspended due to non-availability of the promised aid in time by the foreign collaborating countries/parties;

(b) if so, the names of the projects affected with the names of foreign collaborators; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the Government to make up their implementation schedule?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI):

(a) to (c). I am not aware of any cases where aid was promised by a foreign country but was later withdrawn. Plan projects get delayed among other reasons, due to the difficulty in getting adequate resources, including foreign exchange resources. While, we try continuously to secure foreign aid both for non-project maintenance imports and for financing projects, because we may not secure all that we desire, or secure appropriate assistance at the desired time, our programmes can get delayed; but definite promises once made by aid giving countries have been kept.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

†Transferred from the 8th June, 1967.

12, Noon

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

RISE IN THE PRICES OF TEA AND COFFEE SUPPLIED BY THE TEA AND COFFEE BOARDS

2. SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether the attention of the Finance Minister has been drawn to the fact that the prices of coffee and tea as supplied in the Central Hall of Parliament House by the Coffee Board and Tea Board, respectively, have been raised with effect from the 1st June, 1967 by 5 paise per cup?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): It has been ascertained from local representatives of the Tea Board and Coffee Board that, with effect from 1st June, 1967 they have increased prices of tea and coffee served by them in Central Hall of the Parliament as under:

Tea:—2 paise per cup; 5 paise per single tray.

Coffee:—5 paise per cup.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: The other day when I asked the Finance Minister whether his new additional taxation would not affect the prevailing prices, he made a categorical statement that they would not be affected. When I pointed out to him that on the very day the Budget was released the prices in hotels and other places had gone up, he told me that it would never happen and if it happened he wanted responsible Members to bring the matter before him. I have got his statement here. He made that statement with all the authority and emphasis at his command but it has happened in the case of the Coffee and Tea Boards here itself and they are semi-government organisations. Not only here Sir, my information is that the railway restaurants also have increased the prices of food and other things they supply

I am told that from the 1st of June, the Railway Board or the Railway authorities have increased their rates for food. Vegetarian food which they were selling at the rate of Rs. 1.30 is now being sold at Rs. 1.86, without any notice. The price of non-vegetarian food I am told, has risen from Rs. 1.60 to Rs. 2.57. Also, some of the dishes have been omitted and are not given. Yet he makes a statement saying that it would not affect the prices. Now, it affects. How does the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance compare the statement of the Finance Minister with the realities here?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Let me point out that this increase by the Tea Board and the Coffee Board in the price of tea and coffee served in the Central Hall has nothing to do with the Budget. This was a decision taken by the respective Boards in January, 1967. It was an unfortunate coincidence that they implemented it on 1st June, 1967. So far as the food on the Railways is concerned, as the hon. Member knows, we have not taxed anything that goes into the preparation of the food.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: He says that the decision was taken earlier, but what about the other hotels in the city and all over the country? They have increased it by saying that we have to pay more taxes now.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Well, Sir, yesterday we carried out a quick sample survey in Delhi and it showed that so far as restaurants and hotels are concerned, there has been no increase in the price of tea and coffee . . .

HON. MEMBERS: No, no.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Which hotel?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Which restaurant?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Let me complete my reply. Thank you. There has been no increase in the price of tea and coffee per cup or per tray. It

true that in some wayside tea stalls, where most hon. Members, who are laughing, do not go, after the Budget there has been some increase, from 1 p. to 5 p. per glass. But it may be pointed out that in Delhi sugar and milk have been in short supply and that has been one of the contributing factors.

SHRI P. C. MITRA: May I know whether the Minister is aware that not only is the price of tea and coffee but also the price of sandwiches and other items has been increased in the Central Hall canteen?

SHRI K. C. PANT: That establishes my *bona fides* that the Budget did not contribute to it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Some time ago when we asked similar questions of the Government, a few years ago I think Mrs. Tarkeshwari Sinha was the Deputy Finance Minister then—the lady said that she had been out on sample survey. She had gone to a shop and found that the price of a matchbox had not gone up and it had been taxed at that time. We were surprised because she was not offered a matchbox free at that time. Now here the same is likely to be the case. Which of the Ministers went out on a survey and who carried out the survey and where did they go? He has admitted that in wayside shops the prices have gone up. It means that most people are affected. It does not matter if the prices rise in the big restaurants and so on for Members, but here the common man is being taxed. Does it not show from what he has said that it is true? I should like to know whether Mr. Morarji Desai has changed his calculation. You will remember that Mr. Morarji Desai took a certain quantum of tea and divided it by one hundred cups and then came to the conclusion that there would be perhaps a half paise rise. Now, I would like to know whether he has changed that wonderful calculation of his viz. a quantum of tea divided by one hundred cups and then coming to a

certain conclusion. The hon. Minister should tell us how exactly the survey was carried out, who carried it out, where they went and how they came to the conclusions.

SHRI K. C. PANT: The survey was carried out by the Department, not by me personally. The very fact that I have indicated that there has been a rise in certain places shows that there is no reason to doubt the other statement that here has been no increase in certain other places. So far as the arithmetic or the calculation goes, I am afraid it cannot be altered, in spite of Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, because it is pure arithmetic based on how much tax has been levied, how much has been imposed by us on one kilogram of tea and you divide it by the number of cups you make. I do not know how else one would go about it.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: The Minister has obviously been misled by his Department and he is not personally responsible for making the wrong statement. The fact is that not only at the wayside restaurants, but in all the restaurants and all the tea shops, which the common people use, the tea prices have gone up after the Budget came and the advised excise duty on tea and coffee was levied. May I know if the Minister is prepared to discard the departmental formalities for sometime and came out with me to a common man's tea shop and discover things for himself?

SHRI K. C. PANT: I have never refused an invitation to a cup of tea and I shall be glad to accept it. So far as the responsibility goes, although the Department has carried out the survey, the responsibility is mine. So far as giving up the duty on these is concerned, I may explain that a certain increase in price in respect of tea and coffee was anticipated. It was deliberate because one of the objectives of imposing this excise duty was to put some disincentive on increased consumption, so that more could be spared for export.

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR: Sir, may I know from the hon. Finance Minister whether he is thinking of any device or any action for controlling the spiralling prices? The increase in price may be incidental or accidental or it might have been even thought of before, but it is true that the prices have gone up soon after the Budget was presented to the House. So, for the sake of goodness, to keep the good name of the Government and to remove the misapprehension among the people, may I know if the Government is thinking of any steps to be taken in this direction to either arrest the rise in prices or control the prices at least for some time? The increase may be afterwards, if it is well-founded on facts. It may be allowed after some time, but you should remove the misapprehension among the people, which has given rise to great dissatisfaction among the public.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I am not sure if I have understood the question correctly. It was whether or not the Government is taking steps to control the rise in prices. Certainly the Government is taking all possible steps. The very fact that this Budget is a balanced one is aimed at keeping the demand in check. The fact that food is being distributed at subsidised prices and through public channels is another check. I can list a number of checks. This question often comes up the House.

SHRI D. THENGARI: It was stated here by the Government that there will not be any price rise. May I know whether Government had contemplated earlier, considering the pros and cons of the problem, what methods are to be adopted in case there is a rise? If they had not contemplated, are they considering adoption of certain measures to bring down the prices? If so, what are those measures?

SHRI K. C. PANT: The larger aspect I answered in the previous question. So far as anticipation of

price increase is concerned, I have already said that in respect of tea or coffee the Government did not say that there would be no increase, because one of the objectives was to make these duties act as a curb on consumption, because we were finding that export was going down and the internal consumption was going up fast.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: The hon. Minister said that they wanted measures to act as a disincentive to local consumption for the purpose of export of tea and coffee, and that was one of the reasons why they allowed this price rise irrespective of the fact whether there was any correlation between the taxation and price rise or not. It is in a way an incentive to the tea and coffee shops to profiteer in tea and coffee business at the instance of the Government's encouragement. The way in which he put it—he said that they wanted more tea and coffee to be exported. They wanted the price to rise at home so that people got a disincentive to take more tea and coffee. May I know if that is the reason why Government does not want to control the rise of price in coffee and tea? Even in the Central Hall of Parliament which is under our very eyes the prices have gone up.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: The Finance Minister does not take tea or coffee.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: The Minister of State takes it. Even if it happens in the Central Hall under his very nose and eyes and it is brought on the forum of Parliament to his notice, in spite of that, has he taken any action in the matter so that the prices here could be restricted which could be an example to the rest of the country?

SHRI K. C. PANT: I need not answer the previous question as far as the need for export is concerned. So far as the Central Hall price is concerned, I have already explained that this increase was decided upon in January. It has nothing to do with the Budget proposals. But incidentally

it would not look very good if only the Central Hall were singled out. . .

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: On a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I gave you a chance.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: This is a point of order. The hon. Minister of State said that they anticipated this rise in prices and they wanted it to act as a curb on the local consumption. The other day when the Finance Minister was here and when I mentioned some articles and said that his budget would affect their prices, he made a categorical statement. I am quoting him—the commodities here are tea and coffee: "Even for those commodities, as I said in the Budget speech, they will not be allowed to raise the prices." Again he said: "If some of the hotel people put up the prices, is it not the duty of the hon. Member and members of the public to see that they do not pay more unnecessarily?" This is the quotation from the observations of the Finance Minister. Now he says it was anticipated and it was thought of, and they are having it purposely in order to curb local consumption. Who is misleading us? Is it the Finance Minister or the Minister of State? I want a categorical answer from him.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Neither of us is misleading the House. I would invite the hon. Member's attention to the Budget speech itself and to the Economic Survey in which while giving the justification for the increase, it has been very categorically stated what the objectives behind the increase are.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAY: Sir, it is a serious matter. He asked me to read the Budget speech. But I have given him the quotation. What has he got to say to that?

DR. M. M. S. SIDDHU: Sir, you have given your ruling that not more than two questions will be allowed.

श्री राजनारायण : यह शार्ट नोटिस क्वेश्चन है, श्रीमन् आपने तो तारांकित प्रश्न के लिये कहा था ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. I will see to that. Mr. Das.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: Obviously he is making contradictory statements because the other day, as my friend pointed out, the Minister said that there would be no price rise. Now the opposite has happened. May I know from the hon. Minister when they proposed this new additional tax on tea and coffee, what was their calculation as to what extent there would be a rise in the price of tea and coffee? How far it compares now with the market prices? Secondly, I want to know from the Minister this. About the Central Hall canteens he said that this rise was contemplated in the month of January. May I know from the Minister whether there will be a second rise in the price of tea and coffee because of the taxation measures, as the first rise had nothing to do with the Budget but had something to do with a decision which had been taken in the month of January?

SHRI K. C. PANT: The Central Hall snacks of tea and coffee are under the Commerce Ministry, but it would be my hope that the Commerce Ministry does not add to the troubles of the Members by increasing the prices further. So far as the anticipated effect of the duties is concerned, the anticipated effect was an extra 12 paise for 500 grams of tea. I am giving you an example. Brooke Bond, Red Label—3, 4 and 5—may cost an extra 12 paise for a packet of 500 grams. Coffee powder may cost extra 18 paise. This was the anticipation. We have checked up with the various markets. In Calcutta the price of coffee per k.g. is being raised by 36 paise; that is the amount by which the excise duty has been increased. The prices in Madras and Bombay however do not seem to have increased yet. As for tea, the price of Red

Label has been increased by 20 paise per k.g. as against an excise duty of 24 paise in Madras. There has been no increase in Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi.

SHRI M. S. OBEROI: With your permission, Sir, may I ask not the Minister but Mr. Arora whether there has been no increase in the price of tea or coffee in all restaurants? It is not so.

SHRI HAYATULLAH ANSARI: Is the Minister aware that the price of tea sold by the tea vendors at wayside railway stations has also increased and the amount supplied by the other tea stalls in big stations has been decreased to a good extent?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Railway tea stalls? I did not say anything about railway tea stalls. I said, "wayside tea stalls" and there also I said, "some".

श्री राजनारायण : क्या सरकार को इस चाय की जो कीमत बढ़ी है और चाय के व्यापार में जो अनेक प्रकार की गड़बड़ियां हैं उसके संबंध में ही टी बोर्ड इम्प्लायीज असोसिएशन की तरफ से मेमोरेण्डम मिला है कि जिसमें उसने यह कहा है कि जो पब्लिक टी वेंयरहाउस कलकत्ता में था अब उनको टी बोर्ड बेचने के लिये कोशिश कर रहा है एक प्राइवेट कंपनी को, जिसका नाम लारी एन्ड कम्पनी लिमिटेड है और यदिहां, तो इस समय टी बोर्ड ऐसा प्रयत्न क्यों कर रहा है जो वहां के मजदूरों की मांग के विरुद्ध है और उसी के साथ साथ क्या सरकार को इस बात की भी जानकारी है कि प्लान्टेशन इन्वॉयरी कमेटी ने इसके विरुद्ध रपट दी है? सरकार ने भी इस बात को मान लिया था कि इसको प्राइवेट कंपनी को नहीं बेचा जाना चाहिये ।

SHRI K. C. PANT: Sir, does this question arise out of this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

SHRI RAJNARAIN: Yes.

दाम के बढ़ने से वहां के सार्वजनिक . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: This question does not arise. But I am glad that you brought to the notice of the Minister something. Therefore, they will look into it.

Mr. Niren Ghosh.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Is the Government aware . . .

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Sir . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Arora please sit down.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Sir, he made a reference to me when I was not on my seat . . . (Interrup-

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Is the hon. Minister aware that we export quality tea and quality coffee and that common tea forms an insignificant portion of our export? The United Kingdom is our main purchaser. That being so, may I know whether the increase in excise duty would at all contribute to the increase in the export of tea because common teas are not generally exported. The Ministry has calculated that since the people are not taking much food, wheat or rice, and now a days they take tea or coffee, they cannot do without it and we should tax them. So, the common people are being made to suffer without there being any expectation of any rise in the export of tea or coffee.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Sir, the latter part of his question was with regard to export. I might say that there is a graded duty, and the duty on superior qualities which contribute more to export is higher than that for the inferior qualities which do not contribute so much. So, that has been kept in view and the Government certainly hopes that this will assist in the export of tea.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

दिल्ली के लिये नया मास्टर प्लान

*459. श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : क्या निर्माण, आवास और पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या दिल्ली के लिये कोई नया मास्टर प्लान बना लिया गया है अथवा विचाराधीन है ; और

(ख) पहले बताये गये मास्टर प्लान के अन्तर्गत अनियमित मानी गई बस्तियों में से किन किन को अब नये प्लान के अन्तर्गत नियमित मान लिये जाने की सम्भावना है ?

†[NEW MASTER PLAN FOR DELHI]

*459. SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new Master Plan for Delhi has been prepared or is under consideration; and

(b) what are the names of the colonies which were regarded as unauthorised under the previous Master Plan and which are now likely to be accepted as authorised colonies under the New Plan?]

निर्माण, आवास और पूर्ति मंत्री (श्री जगन्नाथ राव) : (क) दिल्ली के लिए नया मास्टर प्लान बनाने अथवा मास्टर प्लान में कोई मूलभूत परिवर्तन करने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है। तथापि, मास्टर प्लान में, दिल्ली डेवलपमेंट एक्ट 1957 के उपबंधों के अनुसार, जब कभी आवश्यकता हुई, कुछ सुधार किये गये।

(ख) दिल्ली के मास्टर प्लान में अनधिकृत बस्तियों के नामों का कोई उल्लेख नहीं किया गया है। तथापि यह निश्चय किया गया है कि 1 सितम्बर 1962 से पूर्व का अर्थात् मास्टर प्लान के लागू होने की तारीख से पूर्व का अनधिकृत निर्माण जो कि पर्याप्त मात्रा में है, तथा जो मास्टर प्लान के

†[] English translation.