

the working people in the country that the dearness allowance should be based on and linked with the rise in the cost of living and generally the cost of living indices?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: In examining this, Government will take into consideration all relevant factors.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, exactly what the policy of the Government is in the matter, because time is an important factor when prices are rising almost every month? In view of that and having regard to the fact that the Government has failed to hold the price i.e., the promise that was made to their employees and other working people, what steps are the Government taking in order to expedite the matter in order to bring the dearness allowance in line with the rise in the cost of living?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It was the same question that Mr. Vajpayee put.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The hon. Minister used a Latin expression to give an answer, but I want a simple answer as to what exact steps the Government are taking.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the answer was very simple. All aspects of the matter are under consideration—he said.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Exactly what steps are taken? Are consultations taking place in proper quarters? Have tripartite and bipartite discussions started or has a body been set up to look into the matter and come to conclusions?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: If my hon. friend will be satisfied with the physical step that has been taken in this direction, I can tell him that I went to the room of the Joint Secretary, who is dealing with the matter, at 10.45 today.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know, Sir, since when this question of the demand for an increase in the dearness allowance of Government employees has been under the consideration of the Finance Minister?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I took office on the 31st August this year and since then the matter has been under consideration.

RECENT INCREMENT TO PENSIONERS

*303. SHRI R. K. BHUWALKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what factors were taken into consideration while giving the recent increments to pensioners;

(b) whether it is a fact that this raise has been given on an interim basis; and

(c) what other measures Government intend to take to improve the general condition of the pensioners?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA) : (a) The hardships of this class of pensioners.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No such question in respect of pensioners specifically is under consideration.

श्री आर० के० भुवालका : क्या मंत्री महोदया बतायेंगी कि यह पेंशन देने से सरकार को और कितने रुपये खर्च करने पड़ेंगे और पेंशनरों को इन्टरिम रिलीफ देते समय किन बातों का विचार किया जायगा और पूरा रिलीफ देने के लिये अभी और कितना समय लगेगा ?

श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा : अभी तो यह जो पेंशन में वृद्धि दी गई है यह "एड हाक" तरीके से दी गई है और इस में जो खर्चा पड़ने की उम्मीद है वह करीब ४ करोड़ ५० लाख रु० है। यह मामला अभी विचारणीय

है कि किस तरह यह पेन्शन स्कीम और आगे बढ़ाई जाय और इस के बारे में अभी कोई फैसला नहीं हुआ है। मैं माननीय सदस्य को यह भी बता दूँ कि सरकार के और विभाग भी अपनी अपनी योजना बना रहे हैं, जैसे कि स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने एक योजना बनाई है और उस को उन्होंने कारगर भी किया है, जिस के बारे में स्वास्थ्य मंत्री महोदया ने एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में २८-११-१९६३ को बताया था।

SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: Is it a fact that in the month of October the Prime Minister in his press conference said that there would be an increase in pensions?

श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा : उसके बाद ही तो यह पेन्शन बढ़ी है। दरअसल उसी दिन उन्होंने इस का अनाउन्समेंट भी किया।

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether any representation has been received by the Government from the Bharat Pensioners' Samaj and, if so, what action has been taken thereon?

श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा : यह मैंने प्रश्न के उत्तर में बताया कि ये उनके जौ मामले हैं उनकी जाँच करके ही यह कदम उठाया गया है।

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: May I ask for the answer to be given in English?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: If he is interested in a particular question, he can ask it in English. I said that only in view of those representations and the realisation of their hardship that this step has been taken..

SHRI A. D. MANI: In answer to part (c) of the question, the Deputy Minister stated that no such matter is under consideration. May I ask her whether Government has not re-

ceived representations from pensioners' association asking for medical relief on the lines of the Central Health Scheme? Has this matter been considered and rejected?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: I have already replied to this question in Hindi. The Health Ministry has announced the implementation of the Central Health Scheme in respect of pensioners residing in Delhi and she has said so in reply to a question.

श्री भगवत नारायण भार्गव : क्या इस योजना का लाभ उन रेलवे कर्मचारियों को भी मिलेगा जिन को सन् १९५७ से पेन्शन का लाभ दिया गया है ?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: If they are pensioners, this ad hoc benefit will also accrue to them.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Has the Government recommended to the State Governments also to consider this matter so far as their pensioners are concerned?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Sir, if we recommend it to the State Governments, they will ask us to aid them. So we do not make any recommendation.

RESERVATION OF PLOTS FOR SCHEDULED CASTES IN RAJOURI GARDEN UNDER THE LOW INCOME GROUP HOUSING SCHEME

*304. SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have reserved 15 per cent of the plots in Rajouri Garden on Najaf-garh Road under the Low Income Group Housing Scheme for allotment to persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes; and

(b) the number of Scheduled Caste persons who have paid the earnest money and got the plots?