

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : मेरा एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। अभी अभी आनरेबल मेम्बर ने पार्लियामेंट के सदस्यों पर स्लर रिमार्क किया है और मेरा आग्रह है कि सदस्यों के ऊपर जो इस प्रकार का स्लर रिमार्क हुआ है वह प्रोसीडिंग्स से निकाल दिया जाय।

SHRI A. D. MANI : On a point of order. It is a very legitimate remark that there are allegations made.

SHRI ABID ALI : How many ex-Members of Parliament are occupying bungalows and is Mr. Krishna Menon one of them?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have suggested that the information should be collected and laid before the House.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : How many ex-Cabinet Ministers are occupying big bungalows and are Mr. Asoka Sen, Mr. Patil and others among them?

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : He is occupying a bungalow which was allotted to him when he was a Minister.

#### AGITATIONS BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

\*185- SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the agitation being conducted by the Central Government employees on the demands of higher minimum wages and full neutralisation of the rise in the cost of living; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no justification for Central Government employees taking recourse to an agitational approach, as Government are constantly keeping under review service matters affecting their employees through the Scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration, at both National and Departmental levels.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : May I know if it is not a fact that the Government has declined or refused to refer two very major demands of the Central Government employees, namely, the need-based minimum wage and the merger of D. A. with basic pay to arbitration and, if so, what is the reason for that?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : May I say that the Government have said that the need-based question is not arbitrable and it will not be referred to arbitration.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Why?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : It is a matter of opinion. I have said it would not be referred.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Give some reasons.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : It is not a feasible question for instance.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Who said?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : I am saying. Who are you to say?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Give some reasons.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : No use asking me this or that. Hon. Members can have their opinion, I can have my opinion, and Government has its view and this is the Government view.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The Deputy Prime Minister has not yet finished his reply. How can you have a point of order before then? Let him finish.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : It is his discretion to say that it is his opinion. Of course it is his opinion, but what is wanted here is : Give some reasons.

SHRI ABID ALI : The Minister should be allowed to give his reply. What is this?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now please do not interrupt the Minister.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : I have said that the question of a need-based wage

is not considered feasible and it is not arbitrable. This is Government's view and this is what Government has told them. The other question of merger of dearness allowance with salary is a question which is open for discussion, and this is what Government has told the gentlemen who had come to the meeting. Some had not come; only one came and three did not come. They were told this that this is the D.A. and what is the quantum which can be merged and what cannot be merged is a matter for negotiation and that it should be done. And we are not ruling out arbitration if the negotiations fail. This is what we have said. But this can be done only if the other part is also accepted, that the other will not be arbitrable, and if they want to create trouble on the other part, then this part does not come in.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : The hon. Deputy Prime Minister has not given any reason for not referring the question of a need-based minimum wage to arbitration. May I draw your attention, Madam, to the particular scheme of the Joint Consultative Machinery, its constitution and procedure. In clause 4 of that scheme it says: "The National Council will deal with matters affecting Central Government employees, such as minimum remuneration, dearness allowance and pay". . . Again in clause 16 it says: "Compulsory arbitration shall be limited to (i) Pay and allowances; (ii) Weekly hours of work, and (iii) Leave"... And again in clause 13 it says: "... But, if a final disagreement is recorded, and the matter is one for which compulsory arbitration is provided, it shall be referred to arbitration if so desired by either side".

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please put the question now.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Now this is the position and in view of this clear indication of the constitutional procedure laid down in the J. C. M. Scheme, may I know why the Government considers the question of a need-based minimum wage as non-arbitrable ? What is the reason of the Government in spite of this clear indication in the J. C. M.'s constitution and procedure?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : I have already said that Government have considered the law, and the provisions in the J. C. M. Scheme, and after considering it from all legal points of view, Government have come to the conclusion that this is not arbitrable, and this is what I have

said. The Question Hour cannot be made a matter of argument questioning the policy of the Government. This is all I have to submit. I do not think I am called upon to say anything beyond that and I am not going to say.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : The entire J. C. M. has been evolved on the pattern of the British Government. Let us see what is happening in Britain, I mean in the United Kingdom. In the United Kingdom, Madam, in matters of this type they immediately refer the entire matter to a pay commission or to the Wage Council. Why not the hon. Deputy Prime Minister get rid of this difficulty in this country, why not the Government give a decision to refer the entire matter to a pay commission, which is overdue in this country for the Central Government employees?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : Government has its own responsibility and Government cannot give it up. Government does not think that this is the time when any such suggestion could be accepted. May I say this also? When they say that this is put on the pattern of the Whitley Councils, well, the pattern may be there but the whole thing is not similar. There the British Government has the right to withhold anything from arbitration if they decide to do so. This inherent right is there.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : They have no such right.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : They have this right.

SHRI ABIDALI : Is it not a fact that this particular question about the minimum wage came up before the last Pay Commission and they have dealt with it exhaustively and in their recommendations this has been mentioned, and will it be possible for the Government to kindly consider the practice which may be in vogue in the United Kingdom with regard to this situation, on the basis of which our consultative committee has come into being?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : I am sorry I am not going to follow any other practice.

SHRI ABIDALI : About a pay commission

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : No.

SHRI ABIDALI : The last Pay Commission?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: No.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : This unhelpful attitude of the Minister will create a problem in the coming months.

SHRI A. D. MANI : What is the problem ?

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: It may be a total strike, and it is not helpful for anybody, either for the public or for the Government itself. So may I know from the Government whether this decision that the matter is not arbitrable is an arbitrary decision of the Government ? In view of the rules that have been framed, which have been agreed to by both the parties, is it not a fact that this question of pay and a need-based wage is a question that should be referred to arbitration?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: I do not know what the hon. Member means when he asks whether the Government decision is arbitrary.

(A number of hon. Members stood up to put questions)

Before I finish my reply how can you get up ? If all Members get up, how can I give the reply? Let there be some order on this side of the House if not on the other side of the House.

The hon. Member made a statement that the decision of Government is arbitrary. What is the meaning of being arbitrary? Government have taken the decision. Certainly Government decides; who else decides ?

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM: According to the Finance Minister the question of a need-based wage is not arbitrable, and if the employees accept this position they may discuss the question of merger of D.A. with pay. Now this position is totally unacceptable to the employees. How is the Government going to solve the dispute between the employer, that is the Government, and the employees of the Government?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : The dispute will be solved in the manner it can be solved.

श्री राजनारायण : मेरा सामान्य प्रश्न यह है और मैं खुद आश्चर्यचकित हूँ कि माननीय उपप्रधान मंत्री जी ने कहा कि यह सबाल आर्बिट्रेशन के लिए नहीं है।

SHRI KESAVAN (THAZHAVA) : On a point of order. This is a very serious matter and a two-hour discussion may be allowed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The procedure is that you may give notice of it.

श्री राजनारायण : अगर सरकार इस प्रश्न को आर्बिट्रेशन के लिए भेजना नहीं चाहती है तो उसको वह स्टेटमेंट में कह सकती है। मगर यह कहना कि यह पंच निर्णय के योग्य नहीं है, मैं समझता हूँ कि मंत्री जी के मुखारविंद से यह निकलना अनुचित है। कोई प्रश्न पंचनिर्णय के योग्य है या नहीं और न्यूनतम वेतन क्या हो, इस चीज को निर्णय करने के लिए आर्बिट्रेशन के लिए भेज दिया जाय और वही उसका फैसला दे सकता है। इसलिए मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार का विचार उचित नहीं है। सरकार को इस बात पर पुनः विचार करना चाहिये कि न्यूनतम वेतन कितना होना चाहिये और इसे पंचनिर्णय के लिए भेजे।

श्री मोरारजी आर० देसाई : मैं सम्मानित सदस्य से सहमत नहीं हूँ।

श्री अनन्त प्रसाद शर्मा : क्या सरकार यह बतलायेगी केवल सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट के कर्मचारियों को मिनिमम नीड वेस्ट वेजेज देने में कितना पैसा खर्च करना होगा।

श्री मोरारजी आर० देसाई : मैं सम्मानित सदस्य के इस विचार से राजी नहीं हूँ।

SHRI D. THENGARI : May I know from the hon. Deputy Prime Minister what particular clause or sentence or word in the scheme of our Constitution or the joint consultative machinery entitles him to assert that pay and allowances of all the Government employees are not arbitrable. What is that clause or word ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.