

Rise in Prices in Delhi

- *1510. **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Tulshidas Jadhav:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Shiv Charan Gupta:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of most of the consumer goods have risen in the Capital by 10 per cent to 20 per cent during the past ten weeks; and

(b) if so, how the present prices of different items compare with those prevalent at the end of February, 1966 and the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):

(a) and (b). No, Sir. Weekly retail prices of 25 consumer goods are maintained by the Delhi Administration. Over the ten weeks period ended April 25, 1966, there was no change in the prices of 13 commodities; prices of six commodities registered price rises below 10 per cent; prices of five commodities increased by 10 per cent and above; and price of one commodity was not quoted during this period.

Strike Notice by D.E.S.U. Employees

*1511. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister for Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DESU Technical Supervisory Staff Association had given a notice to go on strike from the 22nd April, 1966;

(b) whether the talks between Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking and the DESU Workers' Union have failed and the strike has been put off to the 5th May, 1966 following intervention by the Chief Commissioner and the Labour Commissioner; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps taken in the matter, if any?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed):

(a) No, Sir. It is the Delhi State Electricity Workers' Union and not the DESU Technical Supervisory Staff Association which had given notice to go on strike from 22-4-1966. The DESU Technical Supervisory Staff Association which is an unrecognised one had also given notice to go on strike from 4th April, 1966. The Conciliation Officer had discussions with both sides. The demands on which there was no scope for settlement during conciliation proceedings have been referred for adjudication by the Chief Commissioner under sub-section (1) of Section 10 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, but the DESU Technical Supervisory Staff Association went on strike with effect from midnight of 30th April, 1966.

(b) No, Sir, the talks had not failed. The Union had deferred the proposed strike till the 5th May, 1966. Subsequently, as a result of an agreement arrived at on 27th April, 1966 between the Union and the Chairman, Delhi Electric Supply Committee, the proposed strike has been given up.

(c) Does not arise.

Government Employees on Study Leave

*1512. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether during study leave, a Government servant is granted a study allowance in addition to his leave salary equal to half average pay;

(b) whether the study allowance is ordinarily not admissible to a person in receipt of scholarship or stipend; and

(c) whether the study allowance or the amount of scholarship received in lieu of the admissible study allowance is taxable under the Income-tax Act?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri L. N. Mishra):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, if the net amount of scholarship or stipend is less than the amount of study allowance, it is permissible to allow the difference between the two.

(c) No, Sir.

Trichur Hospital

4809. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Trichur Hospital Advisory Committee has recommended for the appointment of more doctors, since the in-patients and out-patients have increased in the Trichur Hospital;

(b) whether the Committee has also recommended that the rent for pay-ward be reduced and provision made for a public telephone; and

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

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) Yes.

(b) At present Rs. 8 is charged for a double room and Rs. 6 for a single room. This seems quite modest. The question of revision of the rate of rent will be taken up if it is found to be necessary. A public telephone has already been installed.

(c) The State Government is examining the various recommendations made by the Advisory Committee.

Cochin Water Supply and Sewage Scheme

4810. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation experts visited Ernakulam in December, 1965 and made an on-the-spot technical and financial study of the Cochin Water Supply and sewage scheme;

(b) if so, their recommendations;

(c) whether the State Engineers have already prepared a report; and

(d) besides the five crores of rupees approved by the Planning Commission, how much more money would be necessary to complete the scheme?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The required information is given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6227/66].

(d) Rs. 34.8 crores.

Ayurveda Board

4811. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala State Ayurveda Advisory Board has recommended to Government to organise under the public sector and cooperative sector an Ayurvedic pharmaceutical factory;

(b) whether they have also recommended to form an Ayurveda Board just like coir Board and Rubber Board so that Ayurvedic medicines may have markets in foreign countries; and

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

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) and (b). No.

(c) Does not arise.

Cholera in Kerala

4812. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that by eating 'Pazham Temple' prasadam brought by certain pilgrims who had gone there in November-December, 1965, cholera has spread recently in some parts of Kerala;