

In so far as interest and depreciation are concerned, their incidence on the cost of production is fairly small. Even so, interest rate levels are being kept under regular review and modifications are being made as and when the situation warrants. For example, in May 1977 the Reserve Bank directed the commercial banks to reduce the interest rate on term loans for periods not less than three years from the then existing ceiling level of 14-15 per cent to 12.5 per cent. Rationalisation was also introduced in the deposit rate structure, and the banks were advised to pass on to borrowers the benefits of interest savings on deposits.

Dearness Allowance to Central Government Employees

987. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN:
 SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA:
 SHRI K. A. RAJAN:
 SHRI S. R. DAMANI:
 SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:
 SHRI KACHARULAL HEMRAJ JAIN:
 SHRI MANI RAM BAGRI:
 SHRI YASHWANT BOROLE:
 SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:
 DR. HENRY AUSTIN:
 SHRI AHMED M. PATEL:
 SHRI ARJUN SINGH BHADORIA:
 SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:
 SHRI VASANT SATHE:
 SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:
 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Govern-

ment of Dearness Allowance to their employees from August with the rise in the consumer price index for the period of 12 months going upto 312.50 in August, 1977;

(b) whether Central Government Employees Organisations have approached the Government for immediate grant of dearness allowance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (c). Consequent on the 12-monthly average of the consumer price index crossing 312 points at the end of August, 1977, the Government have decided to grant an instalment of additional dearness allowance to the Central Government employees with effect from 1-9-1977.

(b) Yes, Sir

Token Strike by Officers and Employees of Commercial Banks and Reserve Bank of India

988. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN:
 SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:
 SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officers and employees of the commercial banks and Reserve Bank of India went on a token strike all over the country during September, 1977 to press their demands including revision of wages, restoration of trade union rights and of the right to bonus; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government to settle their demands?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI