

[Shri P.C. Sethi]

ture, as I have already stated, has also not been neglected. This position continues and I hope we shall be successful in our efforts. It is, therefore, not very correct to say that resources are completely being diverted to non-priority uses merely because some luxury expenditure is there. At the same time, I would like to admit that conspicuous consumption is there. That is why Government will have to think about how it could be checked. We will have to think about these measures which the hon. members have pointed out. We will give serious thought to the suggestions made by hon. members so that conspicuous consumption, specially manufacture of such items which are not priority items, is checked and our resources diverted to more useful purposes,

Shri Jha raised the question of deficit financing. The magnitude of it is not as the hon. Member made out. As a matter of fact, total deficit financing by the Central and State Governments amounted to Rs. 189 crores in 1965-67, Rs. 224 crores in 1967-68 and Rs. 269 crores in 1968-69. This reflects to a very large degree the impact on the economy of the two drought years 1965-66 and 1965-67. At the same time, the total plan outlay amounted to Rs. 2,137 crores in 1966-67 and Rs. 2,090 crores in 1967-68 and Rs. 2,337 crores in 1968-69. Despite additional taxation of a sizeable order, recourse to deficit financing is not on the high side. But at the same time, we will have to go into this aspect also certainly and see to what extent we should confine our deficit financing.

As far as the question of high prices is concerned, I would like to point out that in certain commodities, especially foodgrains, the rise has not shown an upward trend especially this year. In certain other commodities which were in short production especially cotton and jute, the rise was much more as compared to foodgrains. I am quite hopeful that with the Kharif crop that we have before us, there need not be cause for concern about food prices, and we should be able to stabilise the prices, but where prices are rising, certainly we will have to see that the production catches up with the demand. To that extent we hope we shall be able to stabilise the present prices and all

efforts are being made in that direction.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : What about guaranteed national minimum within a specified period ?

SHRI P. C. SETHI : This is a complex problem and we cannot give a definite date with regard to it, but it would our endeavour, as has been stated, to see that by 1975 some sort of national minimum is arrived at, but I cannot give a definite, concrete guarantee in this respect. It should be the endeavour of all of us to move in this direction.

So, I would only end by saying that the overall picture of the economy is not as bad as the hon. Members may doubt, but certainly we will make all possible use of the suggestions which the hon. Members have made, and we can benefit by them.

18.07 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. AGREEMENT
BETWEEN H.A.L AND LABOUR
UNIONS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad to inform the House that Management of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and representatives of the six majority Labour Unions of the Company signed a memorandum of agreement at Hyderabad on 27th November, 1969, revising the wage structure of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. This settlement brings to a successful conclusion bipartite negotiations that have been going on since July this year. The agreement is effective from 1st January 1969, for a period of four years.

2. The settlement allows for substantial increases in the wages of H. A. L. workers. It raises the minimum total emoluments of the unskilled worker from Rs. 144/- per month to Rs. 195/- per month, increases over the existing emoluments for the different trade groups range from Rs. 49/- per month to Rs. 59/- per month. Included in these increases is the Dearness Allowance, which

