

12.9½ hrs.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that Dr. K. L. Shrimali, an elected Member of Lok Sabha from Bhilwara constituency of Rajasthan, has resigned his seat in Lok Sabha with effect from the 15th March, 1964.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): No reason given?

Mr. Speaker: He has gone as Vice-Chancellor which is an office of profit.

12.10 hrs.

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO
STARRED QUESTION NO. 376

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment and for Planning (Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman): I rise to make the following statement:

While replying to certain supplementaries raised by Shri H. V. Kamath concerning the Starred Question No. 376 on 2nd March 1964, I regret that an impression may have been created that the miscalculation in the Consumer Price Index for the Bombay and Ahmedabad Series was on the part of the Labour Bureau, Simla and that an enquiry into the matter was being conducted regarding the same.

2. I have since ascertained the correct position which is as follows:

The Labour Bureau, Simla are publishing an All-India Index of Consumer Price Index Number on base 1949-100 which is known as the Interim Series. The Bureau are also taking steps to compile what is known as the new series of Consumer Price Index Number on base 1960-100.

3. Since the new All-India Series has not yet been published, wherever the All-India Index has to be used now for purposes of adjustments in Dearness Allowance, the interim All-India series on base 1949-100, compiled from 27 constituent series is still in use. Of the 27 series, 15 are compiled by the Labour Bureau and the rest (i.e. 12) by the various State Governments. The Labour Bureau series are based on uniform bases of Family Budget Enquiry of 1944, whereas the State series have widely differing bases. The Bombay and Ahmedabad series are 2 of the 12 State series taken into account in compiling All-India Interim series. These 2 series suffered from certain defects such as House Rent Index and clothing prices (both in Bombay and Ahmedabad) being kept constant, and incorrect substitutions being made in respect of Ghee and ready-made tea (in Bombay). The State Governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat set up towards the end of last year Expert Committees headed by Shri D. T. Lakdawala and Dr. M. B. Desai respectively to investigate the matter. The then Labour Minister referred to these defects during discussion at the 21st Session of the Standing Labour Committee held on 27th December, 1963. The two Committees have since submitted their reports to the respective State Governments. As a result of the recommendations, Consumer Price Index Numbers of Bombay and Ahmedabad for 1960 have been increased by 29 points and 19 points respectively. As the Bombay and Ahmedabad series are constituents of the All-India Index base 1949-100, corrections made in these 2 indices have been taken note of by the Labour Bureau, Simla.

4. The Labour Bureau are not responsible for the defects noticed in the Bombay and Ahmedabad indices mentioned above.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): On a point of clarification, Sir.