

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Wednesday, 18th March, 1953

The House met at Two of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

3-9 P.M.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT *re* RECOMMENDATIONS OF
DEARNESS ALLOWANCE COMMITTEE

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement regarding Government's decision on the recommendations of the Dearness Allowance Committee. [Placed in Library. See No. S-13/53.]

STATEMENT *RE* RECOMMENDATIONS OF
DEARNESS ALLOWANCE COMMITTEE

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): With your permission, Sir, I would make a brief statement about the recommendations of the Dearness Allowance Committee.

As the House is aware, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri N. V. Gadgil was appointed in July last year for examining and reporting to Government what portion of dearness allowance at present granted to Government servants should appropriately be treated as pay. The Committee submitted its report on the 4th October, 1952 and a summary of the salient features of the Report was placed on the Table of the House on the 12th November, 1952. The Government have now

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considered the recommendations and I have laid on the Table of the House a statement showing the recommendations of the Committee and Government's decisions thereon. Sufficient number of copies of the Report are placed in the Library for the use of hon. Members.

The main recommendation of the Committee is that 50 per cent. of the dearness allowance at present granted to Government servants in various pay groups up to a pay of Rs. 750 per mensem should be treated as pay for the purposes of retirement benefits, travelling allowance, compensatory allowance, house rent allowance and recovery of rent from those employees who are in occupation of Government quarters. The Committee also recommended that the *ad hoc* increases in dearness allowance granted since 1947 to employees in the lower pay groups should not be reduced until the All-India cost of living index reaches the figure of 303. This in effect means that the basic minimum pay of the Central Government employees becomes Rs. 50 per mensem. These recommendations have been accepted by Government. The concessions relating to retirement benefits will cost about Rs. 4.2 crores per annum and will have effect from the 15th July, 1952. There are certain relatively minor concessions relating to the grant of higher allowances etc. as recommended by the Committee which have also been accepted. As the recalculation and readjustment of these allowances from a retrospective date would involve undue waste of time and labour which would be incommensurate with the results, it has been decided that these concessions would be applied with effect from 1st April, 1953.

I should like to take this opportunity of placing on record Government's appreciation of the valuable work done by the Committee in resolving this very complicated matter.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): This statement has been placed on the Table

[Shri Nambiar]

a long time after the Dearness Allowance Committee has reported. We have a lot of things to discuss, and this matter concerns thousands of Government employees. Therefore, I request that some time may be allotted for discussion of the Report.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We have so much time during the Finance Bill. We may discuss it then.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram (Visakhapatnam): The hon. Minister said that a sufficient number of copies of the Report are placed in the Library. In view of the enormous interest aroused by this enquiry may I make a suggestion that if any hon. Member asks for a copy, a copy may be supplied to him? We have to read it at home. We cannot read it only in the Library.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Copies may be placed not only in the Library, but some in the Notice Office also.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I shall endeavour to make them available.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): Would the Government consider the possibility of allotting another day, because as far as the Finance Bill is concerned, we have got only two days and as you know, during the Finance Bill so many subjects have to be discussed? So, I am just asking the Government whether they will be in a position to allot one day.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is plenty of time till the 4th April. Anyhow, the suggestion has been made. Sardar Swaran Singh.

GOVERNMENT PREMISES (EVIC-TION) AMENDMENT BILL

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): I beg for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Government Premises (Eviction) Act, 1950.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Government Premises (Eviction) Act, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I introduce the Bill.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now proceed with the consideration of the Demands for Grants in respect of the Food and Agriculture Ministry. The following are the Demands that are formally placed before the House:—

Demands Nos. 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 123, 124 and 125.

I would have been glad if the Cut Motions had been given at the Table. Hon. Members may do so within fifteen minutes, and I would have them tabulated, and the Cut Motions standing in the name of whichever hon. Member is present here will be treated as having been moved on the floor of the House.

DEMAND NO. 43—MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,91,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture'."

DEMAND NO. 44—FOREST

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,84,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Forest'."

DEMAND NO. 45—AGRICULTURE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,37,54,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

DEMAND NO. 46—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,86,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the