

SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO: What about Pakistan?

MR. SPEAKER: Pakistan is no more in the Commonwealth.

Widening Gap Between Money Incomes and Standard of Living

*769. **SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:** Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gap between money incomes and the standard of living had been widening in the last ten years and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government have any precise estimate of this widening gap between the money incomes and standard of living; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The relative changes in the per capita income at current prices and at constant prices which broadly reflect the gap between the money incomes and the standard of living, on an average, are given below for the last 10 years. The data for 1971-72 are not yet available.

1	Per capita income: (Rs.)	
	at current prices	at 1960-61 prices
2	3	4
1960-61 . . .	306.1	306.1
1961-62 . . .	316.0	309.5
1962-63 . . .	327.2	308.5
1963-64 . . .	367.2	318.3
1964-65 . . .	422.8	335.4

1	2	3
1965-66 . . .	425.0	309.8
1966-67 . . .	482.7	308.4
1967-68 . . .	561.9	329.9
1968-69 . . .	548.8	324.6
1969-70 . . .	597.4	341.0
1970-71 . . .	633.1	348.9

Source: Economic Survey—1972-73.

The gap between the two has been influenced by the changes in real per capita income and the level of price. On the whole, the gap has tended to widen because of a faster increase in prices. The gap widened particularly during the years when the increase in real per capita income has been low or the rate of rise in prices has been large which have more often coincided or followed the bad agricultural years.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: I am a little astonished that the statement merely points out the difference between per capita income figures at current prices and at constant prices with 1960-61 as base. I thought I would get a more sophisticated idea in regard to other reasons which have operated to bring about this imbalance. In view of this tremendous difference between income figures at current prices and at constant prices which is evidence of the continuous rise in prices, has the Planning Commission resigned itself to the present position, that is, the low income leads to low saving, low productivity and then again to low income—a vicious circle continues—and what is the remedy suggested, if at all, by the Planning Commission to break through this particular vicious circle?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI D. P. DHAR): Some of the features which have been included in the statement are undoubtedly not sophisticated because they deal with hard figures. But as far as the aware-

ness of the Planning Commission regarding these imbalances is concerned, I will assure the hon. Member that we have taken this fully into account in the formulation of the Approach to the Fifth Plan, and this has been very elaborately dealt with—this question particularly—and the remedies have also been indicated in the Approach Paper.

SHRI H N MUKERJEE In view of the fact that in 1970-71, for example, the per capita income at current prices was Rs 633 while at 1960-61 prices it was as below as Rs. 348.9, which shows how bad the malaise is, may I know whether the Planning Commission is recommending any immediate steps to deal with such elements in the bringing about of high prices as black market operations which function openly in the economy the building spree which goes on in cities like Bombay and all that sort of thing may I know whether the Planning Commission has got any interim plan or, at any rate, for immediate implementation, so that the prices problem can be tackled with some objectivity?

SHRI D P DHAR Some of the main remedies which were suggested in the Planning Commission are in the first instance, substantial increases in the production of mass consumption goods, secondly, establishment of an adequate public procurement and distribution system for the assured supply of essential consumer goods, at least to the poorer sections at reasonable, stable prices, and thirdly, a national programme of minimum needs covering elementary education, medical care, nutrition, homestead for landless labour, rural roads, rural electrification, etc.

SHRI NARI KISHORE SINGH May I know whether any study has been conducted by the Government to know whether the regional disparity in income has grown in the last ten years affecting the standard of living of the people in the backward regions of the country, and if so, the steps taken to rectify the situation?

SHRI D P DHAR It is undoubtedly true that, where the benefits of development have not reached in a full measure, the money incomes have remained at a low level. Therefore, in the Fifth Plan, the main emphasis of the Planning Commission is going to be on increasing the money incomes of backward sections and backward areas.

SHRI S B, GIRI Is it on account of the parallel economy of black money which is going on in this country as Mr Chavan admitted or is it on account of the wrong planning based on lack of increased consumer goods or is it on account of the black marketers who are taking advantage of this parallel economy in this country that the widening gap constantly increased in this country and particularly among the working class people?

SHRI D P DHAR The basic factor which determines either increase or decline in the real incomes of the people is the production in the agricultural sector. If the production in the agricultural sector is poor or suffers from shortages on account of climatic or any other conditions or reasons, it has its snowballing effect on prices in various other fields. There is no doubt that the problem of inflation has its own effect on prices also. That is one of the contributory factors and that is why the emphasis on our part is to remedy the first evil which causes erosion of incomes, namely, the deficiencies in production particularly in the agricultural sector. We have also indicated that we are going to work out appropriate fiscal policies by which deficit financing and other inflationary pressures will be kept at the barest minimum.

SHRI S B GIRI I also asked whether the black money is also responsible for the widening gap.

SHRI D P DHAR Undoubtedly, black money does play a black role in this matter. Undoubtedly.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA Could the hon. Minister tell us as to what position this figure, this per capita income

of Rs. 348.9 for India occupies among the developing countries of the world as regards relative per capita incomes.

SHRI D. P. DHAR: I apologise, I would not be able to give the comparative figures which obtain in other developing countries which are large in number. It would be a very very strenuous exercise.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: We are pretty low down the list.

SHRI D. P. DHAR: I contest that statement. We are not pretty low down.

श्री शंकर बहाल सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, देश की लगभग 50 प्रतिशत आबादी पावर्टी लाइन के नीचे है तथा कुछ प्रान्तों में तो 90 प्रतिशत से नीचे है, जो गरीबी की सीमा के नीचे गुजर बसर करते हैं। मैं सरकार से स्पष्ट रूप से जानना चाहता हूँ कि एक औसत भारतीय को नकद कितना पैसा चाहिये, जिस से वह अपना जीवन निर्वाह ठीक ढंग में कर सके और प्रतिमाह उस में कितने रुपये की वृद्धि होनी चली जा रही है—मंहगाई के कारण ?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: The statement indicates the per capita income. We know that the rise in prices has affected the incomes in the country and as has been already indicated by the hon. Minister, we are trying our level best to meet the challenge.

श्री शंकर बहाल सिंह : आप ने क्या जवाब दिया, मैंने समझा नहीं। एक भारतीय को कितना रुपया चाहिये जिस से कि वह अपना जीवन यापन कर सके, तथा मंहगाई के कारण प्रति मास उस में कितनी वृद्धि हो रही है— 10-20-25 रु०, कुछ तो बतलाइये ?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Some studies were made in this behalf by some experts and we are of the view that according to the price level of 1970-71, to meet the minimum needs

of the individual, a person should get a per capita income of Rs. 40 per month. That is what the study has indicated.

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: I am talking of 1973, not of 1961.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: These studies indicate Rs. 20 according to 1960-61 prices and it comes to about Rs. 40 as per present prices.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: The huge gap in the incomes and the rise in prices indicates the failure of the Five Year Plans. Is it not so?

SHRI D. P. DHAR: It is my misfortune not to be in a position to agree with the conclusion of the hon. Member

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: I want to know from the Minister whether it is not a fact that the per capita income in rural areas has not increased much compared to the urban areas as also the increase in the income of the fixed income group in the lower levels is very much less compared to the higher income group. What action is being taken to bridge the gulf?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Studies have indicated that poor sections both in urban and rural areas are the sufferers.

MR. SPEAKER: Members are revolving round the same question in different language and the Minister also is doing the same. I am passing on to the next question.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I will put a different question. The increased deficit financing is putting inflationary pressures on our economy. This deficit financing ought to be reduced. I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. The deficit financing in the first plan was of the order of Rs. 333 crores and it is now Rs. 1500 crores. It has been stated that at the end of the fifth plan.

the deficit financing will be zero
What is the basis of your optimism?
How can you say that? What measures are there which are being taken to see that deficit financing is disposed of?

SHRI D. P. DHAR: I will take this opportunity of correcting the statement of the hon. Member. We have not said in approach document that at end of the Fifth Plan the position with regard to deficit financing will be zero. We have said that we will endeavour to have net zero external aid. We have not said about this. What we have said is, we will keep it at barest minimum. As the House is aware, appropriate fiscal measures are being taken at the present moment.

पुलिस को आबासीय सुविधा उपलब्ध करने के लिये संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों को सहायता

*764. श्री महा बीपक सिंह शाक्य : क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पुलिस कर्मचारियों को आबासीय सुविधायें उपलब्ध करने के लिए सहायता देने के बारे में भारत सरकार की नीति समस्त संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों के बारे में एक समान नहीं है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस के क्या कारण हैं ?

शु. मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री एक० एच० मोहम्मद) : (क) और (ख). आबासीय सुविधाएँ प्रत्येक संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन द्वारा अपनी आवश्यकताओं तथा धन की उपलब्धता को ध्यान में रख कर, दी जाती हैं? अभी तक संघ शासित क्षेत्रों में पुलिस कर्मचारियों को समान आबासीय सुविधायें प्रदान करना सम्भव नहीं हुआ है ?

श्री महाबीपक सिंह शाक्य : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने जी उत्तर दिया है, ऐसा लगता है कि इन की बात उल्टी है, इनका तौर उलटा है, और यह मरकाज उल्टी है और सारा काम उलटा है। आप ने बताया है कि प्रत्येक संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन की आवश्यकताओं तथा धन की उपलब्धता को ध्यान में रख कर सुविधायें प्रदान की जाती हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि 1972-73 के दरमियान आप ने ये सुविधायें किम किम संघ राज्य क्षेत्र को प्रदान की हैं तथा कौन कौन से संघ राज्य क्षेत्र उन से वंचित रहे हैं तथा उन के वंचित रहने के कारण क्या है ?

श्री शंकर बयाल सिंह : मान्यवर, यह प्रश्न ही उलटा है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन का कहना था, हम लिये कह दिया, वरना हम प्रश्न से हम बात का कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है।

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: It all depends upon funds availability. In Goa, Daman and Diu, out of the total police force of 2042, quarters were provided for 129. This comes to 5.8 per cent. In Pondi, total strength is 973 and quarters 268 making 27.5 per cent. In Mizoram the total strength is 644 and quarters 97, the percentage is 67. In Laccadive Minicoy and Amin-divi, 100 per cent satisfaction is there. In Andaman and Nicobar islands the satisfaction is 54.7 per cent. In Chandigarh it is very low. It is 6.5 per cent. In Dadra, Nagar Haveli the satisfaction is 74 per cent. In Delhi it is 53.8 per cent. In Arunachal it is 100 per cent. Efforts are made, wherever it is necessary, to provide housing accommodation provided funds are available.

श्री महा बीपक सिंह शाक्य : जिन राज्यों में यह सुविधा प्रदान की गई है क्या मंत्री जी को पता है कि पहली और दूसरी श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों को ही यह उपलब्ध है? समाजवाद की