

Building up a composite production base, evolving an effective public distribution system, reorientation of foreign and internal trade policies, and greater involvement of public agencies in procurement and distribution are components of an integrated policy to improve the availability of essential commodities and to make them available at stable, reasonable rates to the consumers in all parts of the country.

**Escape of Dr. Dharma Teja to Foreign Country**

\*92. SHRI KESHAVRAO DHONDGE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Dharma Teja has escaped from India to some foreign country by an Air India plane;

(b) if so, action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the stringent action taken against the Employees who helped him escape from India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION: (SHRI FURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) to (c). Dr. Dharma Teja did not leave by an air India plane but by a PANAM flight on 22nd July, 1977 for Frankfurt. The Government of India in the Ministry of Finance have already initiated action under the provisions of the Income-Tax Act against the carrier.

**Rise in Cost of Living Index and Dearness Allowance to Central Government Employees**

\*93. SHRI KIRIT BIKRAM DER BURMAN: SHRI V. G. HANDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite all efforts by Government to curb the prices, the cost of living index continued to rise during the past three months;

(b) if so, what was the cost of living index during these months and what was the 12-monthly average during each of these months;

(c) whether any further instalment of D.A. has become due to Central Government employees under the existing formula; and

(d) if so, what decision has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b). Index figures are so far available only for the period upto the end of May, 1978. Index figures for March, April and May, 1978 and the 12-monthly index average for these months are as follows:

Month	Index	12-monthly average of the index
March 78 . . .	321	324.17
April 78 . . .	322	324.92
May 78 . . .	323	325.33

These figures show that there has only been a marginal rise in the Consumer Price Index.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Notice Served by Income-tax Department for Recovery of Arrears from Shri Dharma Teja**

\*94. DR. BALDEV PRAKASH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Income-tax Department has served notice to Air India and Pan American Airlines for recovery of income tax arrears outstanding against Shri Dharma Teja who has escaped abroad illegally; and

(b) whether any preventive measures were taken to prevent his escape by the Income-tax Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQARULLAH): (a) and (b): As considerable arrears of tax were due from Dr. Teja, a number of steps were taken to protect the interest of revenue. The steps taken, *inter alia*, included (i) letters issued on 27-2-1975 by the Income-tax Officer assessing Dr. Teja to Income-tax Officers, Foreign Sections, in the country requesting them not to issue income-tax clearance certificate u/s 230 of the Income-tax Act to Dr. Teja without getting a clearance from him and (ii) letters issued on 3-3-75 to various airlines alerting them against booking passage for Dr. Teja.