

Inter and Intra Occupational Differences in Income and Level of Living

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There is an extremely weak correlation between level of income and standard of living for central government employees. Expenditures on different items in some cases do not rise at all with rise in income. In other cases it does rise but at a much lower rate than income. This insensitivity suggests a social homogeneity giving rise to common values, aspirations and life styles. The hypothesis suggested is that there is possibly some point in the income range above which people belonging to the middle class reveal extremely similar consumption patterns.

THIS is the second of a series of papers reporting results of a research project we have undertaken for the purpose of analysing inter- and intra-occupational differentials in income and standard of living. The first paper covering employees of banks and LIC has already been published in this journal (April 22). The present paper relates to central government employees only.

I

Survey Design

For the selection of central government employees a two-stage sampling procedure was followed. Eight central government offices located within the Calcutta Municipal Corporation area was selected in the first stage by simple random sampling without replacement (SRSWOR) from the list of central government offices available in the Calcutta telephone directory (1985). For the second stage, separate lists of workers belonging to Groups A, B and C as defined by the central service rules and demarcated as shown in Table 1A, were prepared from the selected central government offices. It was noted that Groups A and C cover too many scales (details about the scales of these workers are given in the footnote of Table 1A) spread over a wide range. In order to ensure representation over the whole range, it was decided to sub-divide each of these two groups into two parts in terms of the pay-scales. We thus had five groups and five combined lists were prepared one for each group, overall the different offices. Workers were then arranged according to their date of joining the organisation. These lists were used to draw samples of workers, half-samplewise,* by the circular systematic sampling method. There were

* For reasons of space, we do not present half-samplewise results which indicate the margin of uncertainty associated with the combined sample estimates presented here. These results generally support the conclusions recorded at different places of this paper.

only five workers in the upper bracket of Group A and all of them were selected. For the other four group/sub-groups, samples were drawn with the same sampling fraction. The total number of workers thus selected came to 41.

II

Results

SERVICE CONDITIONS

The extent of inequality of pay among the different categories of central government employees is clearly reflected in the data in Table 1A. Differences in the average gross salary between lower and upper cadres expectedly get reduced after taxation. The relative dispersion, it is noticed, is generally higher in the lower categories than in the upper ones, when the non-salary components such as bonus,

overtime payments, etc, are taken into account the differences get further reduced as the officers under Group A and B do not seem to get any bonus or overtime (Table 1B). However, the provisions of various voluntary deductions for savings

TABLE 1B: SOME ANCILLARY RECEIPTS AND DEDUCTIONS

Category of Employees	Percentage of Annual Gross Salary			Repayment of Loans and Advances (4)
	Bonus	Voluntary Deductions		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(4)
Group A: I	0.00	6.14	19.76	
II	0.00	2.80	8.63	
Group B	0.00	4.01	8.19	
Group C: I	6.84	6.51	5.59	
II	6.48	0.86	8.95	

TABLE 1A: SALARY INCOME

Category of Employees	(1)	Gross Salary		Salary Net of Income and Professional Taxes		
		Last Month	Last Year*	Last Month	Last Year	Index (6)
		(2)	(3)	(4)	Amount (5)	
Group A: I		5778.60 (4755.00- 7323.00)	67179.26 (61360.00- 777176.00)	5252.20 (4735.00- 5823.00)	60723.28 (56010.00- 70926.00)	2.56
II		4280.92 (3121.00- 5480.00)	51094.19 (36687.00- 76149.00)	4150.29 (3100.17- 5134.00)	48579.35 (36437.00- 63643.00)	2.05
Group B:		3906.96 (3307.00- 4429.00)	45137.71 (38847.00- 51618.00)	3802.79 (3287.00- 4408.00)	43587.00 (36847.00- 48298.00)	1.84
Group C: I		2442.03 (1651.00- 3156.00)	26217.30 (19812.00- 37263.00)	2421.98 (1633.00- 3136.00)	28991.47 (19596.00- 37023.00)	
II		1948.25 (1504.00- 2469.00)	23897.60 (18407.00- 30646.00)	1929.66 (1494.00- 2448.00)	23674.30 (18287.00- 30396.00)	1.00

Notes: (i) Group A: I, Employees borne in the pay scales of Rs 3,700-5,000 and above.
II, Employees borne in the pay scales of Rs 2,200-4,000 and Rs 3,000-4,500.
Group B: Employees borne in the pay scales of Rs 2,000-3,200 and Rs 2,000-3,500.
Group C: I, Employees borne in the pay scales of Rs 1,400-2,300 through Rs 1,640-2,900.
II, Employees borne in the pay scales between Rs 950-1,500 and Rs 1,400-1,680.

(ii) In this and all the subsequent tables the index is defined by the ratio of the amount spent on an item by employees in any particular group/sub-group to the amount spent by employees in the lowest group (i.e., sub-group II of C). The figures in brackets indicate ranges.

* Including annual bonus.

with attractive interest rates and income tax saving devices though open to all the categories of employees, benefit the upper cadres proportionately more (Table 1B). We shall notice in the end that consumption standards are not very sensitive to income difference. It is the same component that absorbs the income differentials.

As is well known, the central government offices pay their employees a large variety of loans and advances at highly subsidised interest rates and on extremely easy repayment conditions. Details about these will be provided in a subsequent paper. Here we shall give only some illustrative particulars.

Festival advances and flood advances are available to all employees except the employees in Group A (Types I and II) and festival advances are taken by almost all the employees in Group B and C. Co-operative loans and provident fund loans are extremely popular among all the employees, for their being available readily at low rates of interest. House-building advances are also extremely common, but interestingly, higher cadres of workers are the main beneficiaries. It may be that the maximum amount of HBA admissible to workers in lower cadres fail to match the aspirations of those workers. Also that the monthly deductions are found to be difficult to be borne, by them. Loans for buying cycles are common to the employees of Group C, but loans for purchasing two-wheelers and car are not yet common among the central government officials.

Incidence of official tours is, as may be expected, higher among Group A workers than among the rest. The average expenditure on TA and DA per person bears a more or less proportionate relation with the average gross salaries of the different categories. This amount for the year is nearly double that of the average monthly salary of Group A and Group B workers. It is much less than the monthly salary for Group C workers. This is an element that adds to the inequality among the upper and lower cadres of workers. The TA/DA allowances are of course not parts of income. All the same there cannot be any doubt that these amounts represent certain utilities that are enjoyed by the concerned officers. If that were not so the officers would hardly agree to travel. There are not many posts which make it a compulsory condition that those holding them must necessarily travel.

FAMILY COMPOSITION AND FAMILY INCOME

As we see in Table 2 the average family size is more or less the same among all the five categories of workers. What is of interest is that the incidence of more than one earner in the family is extremely low

TABLE 1C: OFFICIAL TOUR

Category of Employees	No of Employees Making Official Tour	Percentage of Employees Making Tour	No of Tour Per Person	No of Tour Days Per Person	Average TA Drawn Per Person (Rs)	Average DA Drawn Per Person (Rs)	Average TA and DA Drawn Per Person (Rs)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Group A: I	4	80.00	6 (4-8)	26.50 (16-36)	7159.67 (4350-9928)	2554.00 (927-4804)	9713.67 (6450-12313)
II	10	83.33	7.25 (1-10)	41.60 (1-188)	4594.29 (158-18660)	6205.50 (50-30825)	10799.79 (208-49485)
Group B	1	16.67	1	20.00	4000.00	1500.00	5500.00
Group C: I	4	33.33	2 (1-5)	47.75 (3-158)	940.25 (398-1488)	691.75 (225-1372)	1632.00 (798-2860)
II	1	16.67	3	211.00	390.00	8870.00	9260.00

Note: Out of the 41 respondents, three reported to have undertaken one long tour, each using office vehicle. Figures for travelling expenses for these tours were not available. The TA for the tours have therefore been excluded while calculating 'total TA drawn per person'. The 'total DA drawn per person' however includes the DA drawn for those tours.

TABLE 2: FAMILY COMPOSITION

Category of Employees	No of Respondents	Average Family Size	No of Consumer Units Per Family*	No of Earners Per Family	Proportion of Families with		
					More than One Male Earning Members	Earning Wives	Female Earning Members Other than Wife
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Group A: I	5	4.00	3.19	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
II	12	3.58	2.97	1.33	0.08	0.25	0.08
Group B	6	4.33	3.73	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Group C: I	12	5.42	4.48	1.83	0.42	0.08	0.25
II	6	4.17	3.11	1.67	0.00	0.67	0.00

Note: * For explanation of the concept of consumer units, see Note 3 of our previous article in the series.

TABLE 3: FAMILY INCOME*

Category of Employees	Gross Family Income (Rs)	Gross Family Income per Consumer Unit Amount	Index	Proportion of Family Income Contributed by Other-Family Members
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Group A: I	68043.28 (56010.00-82891.08)	21330.18	1.67	0.05 (0.00-0.22)
II	62288.35 (37202.00-99748.00)	20972.51	1.64	0.21 (0.13-0.61)
Group B:	43587.08 (36847.00-48298.00)	11685.54	0.91	0.00
Group C: I	54181.38 (20996.00-142648.00)	12094.06	0.95	0.45 (0.23-0.77)
II	39735.80 (24930.40-79305.00)	12776.78	1.00	0.40 (0.00-0.64)

Note: * Family income is defined as gross salary of respondent—(income tax + professional tax) + income from other sources of respondent + gross income of other family members.

in the families of the higher category workers. If we define a joint family as one having more than a single male earner it would seem that they occur only among families of lower category workers. This is of considerable sociological interest, as until recently the phenomenon of joint families was quite important among people of upper classes and castes. As to female workers the picture is quite dismal. There are altogether very few female workers in all the households surveyed and most of them are found to be concentrated in the families of the lower category workers. The conclusion to be drawn is that in the Bengali middle class to which most of the sample respondents belong, women take up employment only out of economic necessity and not out of any aspiration for having an active life of their own.

This inference is confirmed by the figures in Table 3 where one sees that the proportion of family income contributed by family members other than the respondent is negligible excepting for workers of Group C. It may also be noted that income from subsidiary sources like rent, dividends, etc, either of the respondent or of other members of his family is very nearly nil. The central government servants are therefore almost entirely dependent on their salary incomes.

LEVEL OF LIVING DIFFERENCES

As the groups are defined, employees belonging to Group C are paid less than those belonging to Group B or A and income of Group B employees are lower than those in Group A. In terms of family income, however, we have already noted that the differences between Groups B and C employees get substantially reduced. One would, therefore, expect that living standards of the families in Groups B and C to be more or less the same while that for Group A families would be higher. We shall next examine to what extent this a priori expectation is vindicated by the results of the survey presented in Tables 4 to II.

We shall first examine the position with respect to living accommodation of the various groups of employees (Table 4). It is found that as may be expected officers in Group A enjoy more of living space per capita and pay higher rentals than the employees in Groups B and C. In the matter of enjoying office quarters or having their own houses to live in there does not seem to be any systematic pattern. The same lack of any clear pattern is noticeable in the expenditures on transport, both for going to places of work and moving about for other purposes. This of course is strange. Part of the explanation lies in officers in Group A enjoying the facility

of using office cars. The remaining part has to be ascribed to random factors like the location of a person's residence and clearly family income differences. The

TABLE 4: LIVING ACCOMMODATION

Category of Employees		Percentage of Families Living in			Per Capita Floor Space		Rental Per Month	
		Office Quarter	Rental House	Own House	Sq ft	Index	Rented House (Actual) (Rs)	Own House (Estimated) (Rs)
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Group A:	I	20.00	60.00	20.00	265.20 (207.00-381.50)	1.79	812.00 (420.00-1200.00)	2375.00 (1500.00-3250.00)
	II	17.00	25.00	58.00	301.12 (80.00-2952.00)	2.03	869.30 (220.00-1600.00)	1250.00 (250.00-2500.00)
Group B		33.33	33.33	33.33	129.62 (62.50-200.00)	0.87	534.50 (250.00-688.00)	550.00 (500.00-600.00)
Group C:	I	8.33	33.33	58.33	196.62 (40.00-500.00)	1.33	245.40 (160.00-330.00)	657.14 (100.00-1200.00)
	II	16.67	50.00	33.33	148.28 (36.40-216.67)	1.00	232.95 (46.80-325.00)	687.50 (600.00-775.00)

TABLE 5A: PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Category of Employees		Expenditure (in Rs)			
		For Going to Office, School, etc (2)	For Going to Other Places (3)	Amount (4)	Total Index (5)
(1)					
Group A:	I	839.28 (0.00-1826.40)	1716.00 (720.00-2400.00)	2555.28 (720.00-4226.40)	1.57
	II	1671.65 (0.00-4329.00)	623.00 (0.00-1800.00)	2294.65 (0.00-4569.00)	1.41
Group B:		1634.00 (408.00-3204.00)	1135.00 (150.00-2400.00)	2769.00 (1014.00-5160.00)	1.70
Group C:	I	900.00 (240.00-2304.00)	1229.00 (0.00-3060.00)	2129.00 (708.00-4692.00)	1.31
	II	872.40 (242.40-1881.00)	755.00 (72.00-1800.00)	1628.90 (542.40-2700.00)	1.00

TABLE 5B: EDUCATION

Category of Employees		Average Expenditure Per Reporting Family		Average Expenditure Per Student		Percentage of Educational Expenses		
		Amount	Index	Amount	Index	Tuition and Other	Books and Stationaries	Private Coaching
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Group A:	I	5528.33 (1505.00-12410.00)	3.68	3317.00 (1335.00-6205.00)	3.86	86.40	13.60	0.00
	II	2348.60 (1310.00-3603.00)	1.56	1565.73 (981.50-2568.00)	1.82	43.73	32.34	23.93
Group B		4437.67 (2658.00-6230.00)	2.95	2420.55 (1329.00-3320.00)	2.82	13.39	30.80	55.81
Group C:	I	1621.78 (532.00-3968.00)	1.08	912.25 (226.00-2180.00)	1.06	12.44	28.36	59.19
	II	1503.00 (215.00-2565.00)	1.00	858.86 (215.00-2565.00)	1.00	39.82	45.21	14.97

families of the top-most category spend more than 3.5 times of what the lowest category families do—this is true of total expenditure as well as expenditure per student. The composition of expenditure shows a telling difference. The top two categories send their children to more expensive schools, whereas the next two categories are obliged to supplement school education by private coaching to a much higher extent. The bottom category however cannot afford such coaching.

Expenditure on medical treatment is also a reliable indicator of family income, the average figures rising monotonically as the employment status rises. What is salutary in Table 5C is the incredibly low figures relating to the benefits in the form of medical reimbursement. This may partly reflect the fact that some central employees take advantage of the CGHS and do not go in for reimbursement. This however is not the whole story. It is well known that the rules regarding medical reimbursement are extremely clumsy and slow in their working. As a result higher paid civil servants simply do not bother to go through the harassment of getting reimbursement, whereas the poorer employees cannot afford to incur the initial cash expenditure and wait for months for reimbursement. This indeed is a most lamentable state of affairs, especially when one compares it with the ease and speed with which reimbursement for many other non-essential items is made. For instance, as one may see from Table 5D, reimbursement of expenditures for holiday travel covers a much higher proportion of workers as well as a much higher proportion of expenditures. The figures in that table show that holiday travel is also an item reflecting systematically family income though in a somewhat dampened manner. It is interesting to note that on the average what one spends on holiday over and above reimbursement compares fairly well with the average monthly income.

The figures in Table 6 relating to durables present no surprise. That the richer would possess durables of better quality and more in number is only to be expected. Same is true of costly sarees possessed per adult female members. It may be kept in mind about sarees that the averages fail to reflect the high propensity of to acquire our young women in this matter. The averages get dampened by the modest collections of elderly women. What is of interest in this context does not appear in the table—that consists of the possession by one and all of certain items of durables like radios, transistors, wrist watches, steel almirahs, electric fans, etc. As is well known these items are now

TABLE 5C: MEDICAL

Items	Category of Employees				
	Group A		Group B	Group C	
	I	II		I	II
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1 Expenditure per family per annum					
(a) Amount (Rs)	2063.80 (204.00 - 5740.00)	1343.27 (0.00 - 3000.00)	1087.47 (0.00 - 4040.00)	1077.33 (76.00 - 2400.00)	790.67 (0.00 - 960.00)
(b) Index	2.61	1.70	1.38	1.36	1.00
2 Percentage of expenditure reimbursed	2.33 (0.00 - 4.18)	4.36 (0.00 - 37.77)	64.44 (0.00 - 86.14)	11.00 (0.00 - 100.00)	0.00
3 Employees reimbursed (per cent)	20.00	16.67	33.33	16.67	0.00

TABLE 5D: HOLIDAY TRAVEL

Items	Category of Employees				
	Group A		Group B	Group C	
	I	II		I	II
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1 Expenditure per family (Rs)	6912.50 (2300.00 - 11500.00)	3838.33 (0.00 - 12000.00)	5075.00 (0.00 - 8000.00)	2806.25 (0.00 - 12600.00)	3121.67 (0.00 - 7500.00)
2 Index	1.77	1.23	1.63	0.90	1.00
3 Percentage of expenditure reimbursed	31.42 (10.59 - 100.00)	39.99 (0.00 - 71.61)	41.04 (0.00 - 60.00)	21.23 (0.00 - 50.00)	47.16 (0.00 - 82.57)
4 Percentage of families making at least one holiday trip	100.00	66.67	41.67	50.00	66.67
5 No of holiday trip per reporting family	3.20	3.25	2.20	2.83	2.00
6 Average duration of holiday trips (days)	12.20	10.27	15.45	10.76	6.13
7 Percentage of families getting reimbursement for holiday tour at least once	80.00	58.33	66.67	33.33	50.00

Note: The reference period for all the items of expenditure, excepting that for No 6 is 'last 4 years' and that for No 6 is 'last year'.

TABLE 11: CEREMONIAL EXPENDITURE

Category of Employees	Expenses on Ceremonials (During Last Five Years) Per Family (Rs)	Puja Purchases (Last Year)	
		For Own Family (Rs)	For Making Gifts (Rs)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Group A: I	8200.00 (0.00 - 18500.00)	810.00 (600.00 - 1600.00)	850.00 (0.00 - 2000.00)
II	9020.83 (0.00 - 50000.00)	1240.83 (0.00 - 2700.00)	545.83 (0.00 - 2000.00)
Group B	4875.00 (0.00 - 12000.00)	1962.50 (1500.00 - 2800.00)	933.33 (350.00 - 2500.00)
Group C: I	14554.17 (0.00 - 68250.00)	1404.75 (240.00 - 3500.00)	1013.33 (0.00 - 4400.00)
II	8316.67 (0.00 - 34000.00)	1273.33 (35.00 - 2480.00)	540.83 (200.00 - 1000.00)

possessed by large numbers of people even belonging to the working classes.

Income differences do not however get reflected at all in the differentials in the expenditures on certain non-essential items which are presented in Table 8. As with Bank and LIC employees, central government employees too reveal a staggeringly low propensity to spend money on cultural objects, in particular books. Employees in the upper cadre with monthly income in the range of Rs 5,000 to Rs 6,000 spend on an average Rs 20 only per month on books! Even the maximum amount spent in our sample does not reach Rs 100 per month. As to expenditure on drinks the figures are definitely underestimates. The respondents were reluctant to answer the question, reflecting their prudery and hypocrisy. As is well known, it is by now a widely popular habit among middle class people to use drinks, if not regularly at least for entertaining guests and on festive occasions.

The same lack of dependence on income is seen in respect of such relatively costly items of food as fish and meat (Table 9), as well as expenditures on ceremonials and purchases on festive occasions either for own family members or for making gifts (Table 11). Among nutritious food items milk does reveal sensitivity to income but eggs fail to do so. A qualification may be entered here. On some of the insensitive items mentioned above relatively less is spent only by the lowest category of the five group of workers, the rest from Group C Category I to Group A Category I revealing a striking homogeneity.

Table 10 relating to domestic servants once again reveals differentials much less sharp than income differentials. Most families have only a single servant, most of whom are again non-residents. The families of upper categories employees do not employ whole-time servants to any greater extent than the others. There is

TABLE 6: DURABLES

Items	Percentage of Families Possessing Durables by Category of Employees					
	Group A		Group B	Group C		
	I	II		I	II	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
1 Television						
A Colour	20.00	33.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	
B Black and white	80.00	66.67	100.00	50.00	50.00	
2 Refrigerator	100.00	75.00	33.33	16.67	16.67	
3 Taperecorder	60.00	66.67	16.67	25.00	50.00	
4 Two-in-one	60.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	
5 Scooter	0.00	16.67	0.00	8.33	0.00	
6 Inverter	0.00	25.00	16.67	0.00	0.00	
7 Telephone	60.00	16.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	
8 Camera	100.00	50.00	50.00	33.33	50.00	
9 Gas stove	100.00	75.00	100.00	50.00	33.33	
10 Water filter	60.00	58.33	0.00	25.00	16.66	
11 Sofa	100.00	41.66	66.66	25.00	33.33	
No of consumer durables (out of 21)* possessed per family	8.00 (6-10)	6.75 (4-14)	6.00 (4-9)	3.58 (0-8)	4.00 (2-9)	
Average value of durables possessed per family	18253.00 (11000.00-24200.00)	14540.33 (3215.00-31600.00)	10149.17 (4700.00-13800.00)	7202.67 (0.00-17750.00)	4891.67 (805.00-14330.00)	

Notes: None of the families in our sample possessed either motor car, emergency light, slide projector or generator. Only one family belonging to a Group A-II respondent possessed a VCR.

* The 21 items of consumer durables are as follows: radio, TV(colour), TV(black and white), VCR, refrigerator, taperecorder, two-in-one, record player, gas stove, water filter, bicycle, motor-cycle, scooter, inverter, emergency light, generator, telephone, camera, slide projector and sofa set.

TABLE 7: SAREES AND WOOLLEN GARMENTS

Category of Employees	Female Members Per Family	Sarees per Adult Female		Woollen Garments Per Family Member
		Below Rs 100 (3)	Rs 100 and above (4)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Group A: I	1.40	20.29 (5.0-20.0)	24.43 (4.0-37.5)	5.10 (2.00-9.60)
II	1.75	9.76 (0.0-20.0)	19.14 (0.0-64.0)	3.21 (0.75-5.33)
Group B	2.00	8.08 (4.0-15.0)	7.92 (5.0-29.0)	2.84 (1.25-4.00)
Group C: I	2.17	11.65 (6.0-24.3)	11.81 (0.8-18.3)	2.51 (2.00-3.45)
II	2.00	8.17 (4.7-21.0)	9.50 (1.7-30.0)	3.20 (1.60-5.00)

TABLE 8: SOME SELECTED NON-FOOD ITEMS OF CONSUMPTION

Category of Employees	Monthly Expenses (Rs) Per Family						
	Books	Newspapers and Periodicals	Art Objects	Cinema, Theatre, etc	Photography	Cigarettes	Drinks*
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Group A: I	20.00 (0.00-50.00)	33.68 (8.75-50.00)	5.83 (0.00-29.17)	16.83 (0.00-80.00)	25.83 (8.33-26.00)	0.00	0.00
II	21.91 (0.00-83.33)	51.22 (33.10-100.00)	4.34 (0.00-33.33)	13.85 (0.00-41.67)	10.76 (0.00-50.00)	12.50 (0.00-150.00)	0.00
Group B	8.89 (0.00-22.50)	42.95 (25.00-60.00)	0.00	17.01 (0.00-83.33)	22.92 (0.00-75.00)	30.00 (0.00-180.00)	0.00
Group C: I	8.99 (0.00-29.17)	44.33 (0.00-100.00)	0.35 (0.00-4.17)	10.63 (0.00-30.00)	16.22 (0.00-57.08)	115.00 (0.00-450.00)	6.67 (0.00-80.00)
II	9.32 (0.00-34.08)	58.19 (16.67-125.00)	0.76 (0.00-4.58)	31.04 (0.00-100.00)	5.44 (0.00-12.50)	65.00 (0.00-300.00)	0.00

Note: * We have already commented in our previous article that information in this item is not forthcoming, reflecting prudery and hypocrisy.

TABLE 9: SOME SELECTED FOOD ITEMS

Items	Category of Employees				
	Group A		Group B	Group C	
	I	II		I	II
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Fish					
(a) No of days consumed per month	14.20 (0-30)	18.00 (2-30)	20.63 (8-30)	13.67 (3-25)	18.33 (6-28)
(b) Quantity consumed per day (kg)	0.27 (0.00-0.50)	0.39 (0.10-0.75)	0.44 (0.25-1.00)	0.49 (0.30-0.88)	0.31 (0.20-0.40)
(c) Expenditure per month					
i) Amount (Rs)	237.50 (0.00-500.00)	233.08 (40.00-450.00)	253.33 (98.00-530.00)	224.23 (31.50-625.00)	185.72 (76.80-357.00)
ii) Index	1.28	1.26	1.36	1.21	1.00
Meat					
(a) No of days consumed per month	2.20 (0-6)	4.00 (0-10)	2.17 (0-4)	2.92 (1-12)	1.83 (1-2)
(b) Quantity consumed per day (kg)	0.60 (0.0-1.0)	0.65 (0.0-1.0)	0.63 (0.0-1.0)	0.84 (0.4-1.2)	0.83 (0.5-1.5)
(c) Expenditure per month					
i) Amount (Rs)	76.00 (0.00-240.00)	96.28 (0.00-348.00)	54.83 (0.00-160.00)	88.00 (16.00-320.00)	47.33 (15.00-80.00)
ii) Index	1.61	2.03	1.16	1.86	1.00
Egg					
(a) No of days consumed per month	7.69 (0-30)	17.5 (5-30)	18.83 (4-30)	13.92 (0-30)	11.50 (0-30)
(b) Quantity consumed per day (no)	0.60 (0-2)	2.58 (1.0-4.0)	4.17 (1-8)	4.42 (0.0-8)	2.83 (0-6)
(c) Expenditure per month					
i) Amount (Rs)	10.40 (0.00-40.00)	40.80 (15.00-90.00)	54.33 (12.00-120.00)	58.48 (0.00-200.00)	26.13 (0.00-42.00)
ii) Index	0.40	1.56	2.08	2.24	1.00
Milk					
(a) No of days consumed per month	30	30	30	25.33 (0-30)	30
(b) Quantity consumed per day (lit)	1.65 (1.0-2.0)	0.85 (0.5-1.5)	1.04 (0.5-1.5)	1.17 (0.00-2.5)	0.75 (0.5-1.0)
(c) Expenditure per month					
i) Amount (Rs)	229.50 (120.00-300.00)	127.92 (66.00-225.00)	151.38 (75.00-207.00)	155.96 (0-337.5)	119.75 (64.50-180.00)
ii) Index	1.92	1.07	1.26	1.30	1.00

some mild systematic difference in the matter of wages paid to whole-time servants but even that is absent when it comes to the hourly rates at which non-resident part-time servants are paid. The 100 per cent figure occurring in the last column does not mean anything more than that most families distribute old and new clothes among their servants.

LEVEL OF LIVING AND LEVEL OF INCOME

In our previous paper dealing with Bank and LIC employees we reported as one of our most striking findings the extremely weak correlation between level of income and standard of living. This result is fully corroborated by our findings relating to central government employees. Expenditures on different items in some cases do not rise at all with rise in income. In other cases it does rise but at much lower rate than income. This may be verified by the index numbers presented in the tables whereby the receipt or expenditure of each of the five categories is expressed as a percentage of that by the lowest category workers. This pattern, read from the averages, is confirmed when one analyses and examines the data in a disaggregated manner. This insensitivity suggests a social homogeneity giving rise to common values, aspirations and life styles. It may not, however, be true that the uniformity we are talking about covers all our five groups. It may be seen on closer examination that the lowest category, namely Group C-II, falls before the other four groups in most cases of expenditures. The hypothesis that is suggested is that there is possibly some point in the income range above which people belonging to the middle class reveal extremely similar consumption patterns.

TABLE 10: DOMESTIC SERVANTS

Category of Employees	No of Respondent	No of Families Having Domestic Servants		No of Families Having More Than One Servant	Working Hours Per Day of Non-Resident Servants	Monthly Wage (Rs)		Non-Resident Servant Getting		
		Residing with	Not Residing with			Resident	Non-Resident	Meal (Per cent)	Tiffin (Per Cent)	Clothes (Per Cent)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
Group A : I	5	1	4	0	3.00 (1.5-40)	70.00	76.25 (60.00-100.00)	0	100	100
II	12	3	9	1	2.20 (1.0-4.0)	116.67 (50.00-200.00)	66.50-150.00	20	90	100
Group B	6	2	4	0	6.00 (2.0-12.0)	40.00 (20.00-60.00)	62.50 (30.00-100.00)	50	100	100
Group C : I	12	1	9	0	2.17 (0.5-4.0)	30.00	44.44 (20.00-80.00)	56	89	100
II	6	2	2	0	1.75 (1.5-2.0)	45.00 (40.00-50.00)	47.50 (45.00-50.00)	50	100	100