

Payment of Pensionary Dues

11. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Enhanced dues a 'mirage' for pensioners" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times', dated April 21, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that no pensioner including family pensioner is deprived of his dues and relevant information/details available with Banks particularly who retired in 70's and 80's?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In implementation of the recommendation of the Vth Central Pay Commission, the Government has already issued orders for revision of pension/family pension of pre-1986 retirees on the basis of fixation of notional pay in the pay scales introduced w.e.f. 1.1.86. As per the procedure laid down in these instructions, pre-1986 pensioners/ family pensioners are required to apply for the revision of their pension to the Head of Department where the pensioner/deceased Government servant served last before his retirement/death. A fixed time schedule has also been laid down for dealing with such cases of revision of pension by various authorities. It has been impressed upon all the Ministries/Departments etc. to deal with these cases on priority basis. The Government has also issued orders that pending revision of their pension/family pension of pre-1986 retirees, their existing pension may be consolidated as on 1.1.1996 by adding together basic pension, DA admissible at AICPI 1510, IR (I) & (II) and 40% Fitment Weightage so as to provide immediate relief based on the table attached to the Orders dated 27.10.1997. Orders for release of first instalment of arrears on this account amounting to Rs. 5000/- plus 50% of the remaining amount were also issued on 27.10.1997. Orders for the release of second and final instalment is being issued shortly. With a view to mitigate hardships to pensioners/ family pensioners on account of non-availability of relevant records in cases where the pensioner had retired prior to 1.1.1973, it has been provided in the orders for the Head of Office to fix their pay at the minimum of the scale of pay introduced w.e.f. 1.1.1973 for the post held by him before retirement.

Construction of a dam

12. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to construct a dam in North Bengal across the river Sankoshi to feed Farakka Barrage;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) details of impact of the dam on wild life and ecology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Detailed Project Report prepared for a multipurpose project across Sankosh river in Bhutan near the Indo-Bhutan border envisages construction of a 265 meter high dam and a 63 meter high lift dam for generation of 4060 Megawatt hydropower. The regulated discharge proposed for irrigation would be conveyed through a 142 kilometer long gravity canal outfalling into the pond of Teesta Barrage in North Bengal.

(c) Environmental Impact Assessment carried out for the project does not indicate any adverse impact on the flora. However to mitigate the likely impact on the fauna; environmental management plans have been suggested.

[Translation]

Supply of Fruits and Vegetables

13. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether efforts have made by the Government to supply fruits and vegetables in large quantity in view of their increasing demands in the cities in the country like Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Madras;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rates of fruits and vegetables have increased in these cities; and

(d) if so, the efforts made by the Government, the results achieved thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Efforts have been made by the Government of India to supply fruits and vegetables in large quantities to the cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Madras through the organised marketing system. For establishing such markets, which will have forward and backward linkages, a feasibility Study had been entrusted to NDDB. An amount of Rs. 1.6 crore has been earmarked for this Study during the current year (1998-99).

(c) and (d) Due to seasonal variations, the rates of fruits and vegetables are fluctuating in various markets of the country. To stabilise the rates, Government of India is implementing Market Intervention Scheme during glut. NAFED is selling potato and onion in their sales counters at control rates. Besides, State Horticulture Produce & Marketing Corporations in the States are also making available fruits and vegetables at reasonable rates.