

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Under the National Fund for People with Disabilities (earlier known as National handicapped Welfare Fund) the funds are provided to such schemes/programmes which are not covered under the schemes being already operated by the Central Govt. or a State Govt. The funds are sanctioned and released as per the proposal received. There is no State-wise allocation made under the Scheme as on date Rs. 18.11 lakhs have been sanctioned.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

3136. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have asked the Union Government to replace Mid-Day Meal Scheme with subsidy on school uniform;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the expenditure incurred on mid-day meal scheme during the last one year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) In the Conference of State Education

Ministers held on 22-23 October, 1998 suggestion was made by Education Minister, Punjab that in view of the State being surplus in foodgrains, the funds provided for the Mid-Day Meal Schemes may be utilised for providing school uniform and shoes to students from poor families. It has not been possible to accede to this request as it is not covered under the guidelines of the Scheme.

(d) Foodgrains are made available free of cost to States/UTs through Food Corporation of India (FCI). This department reimburses cost of foodgrains to FCI directly. Therefore state-wise allocation of funds is not made under the scheme. The expenditure incurred on the scheme by this Department during 1997-98 was Rs. 1070.38 crores.

Committee on Freedom Fighters Pension

3137. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Constitution of the Committee on "Freedom Fighters" with representation of members;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of applications received/rejected by the Committee; and

(d) the total number of cases reviewed and settled so far?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) Non-official Advisory Committees have been constituted by the Central Government from time to time to look into the cases of freedom fighter for grant of pension from Central Revenues. Relevant information in this regard is given in the enclosed statement. These Committees comprised prominent freedom fighters.

Statement

Details of Non-official Advisory Committees constituted by the Central Government to look into the cases of Freedom Fighters for grant of pension from Central Revenues are given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	Year of constitution	No. of cases considered for pension	No. of cases recommended for pension	No. of cases rejected for pension
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	INA Non-official Screening Committee	1973	6,665	2,843	3,822

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Hyderabad Special Screening Committee	1983	62,500	20,505	41,995
3.	J & K Non-official Screening Committee	1983	952	756	196
4.	Arya Samaj Committee	1986	2,354	1,152	1,202
5.	Sindh Committee	1987	72	61	11
6.	Eastern India Committee	1988	3,434	1,496	1,938
7.	Punjab Non-official Screening Committee	1988	410	403	7
8.	Special Audit Team (SAT)	1996	2,000	800	1,200

Information in regard to rejected cases that are reviewed and settled is not maintained separately. Receipt and disposal of review applications is an ongoing process.

[*Translation*]

Grant to Voluntary Organisations

13138. SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and purpose for which his Ministry is providing grants to the voluntary organisations;

(b) the criteria norms and procedure laid down for extending grants to the voluntary organisation for the welfare of disabled, education, training programme, deaddiction programme; and

(c) the details of grants provided to the voluntary organisations during 1998-99 at present in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh, scheme-wise and organisation-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) To promote and involve the voluntary sector in the implementation of the various

schemes and programmes for the welfare and upliftment of the backward, downtrodden, marginalised and disadvantaged sections of society.

(b) Grants-in-aid is given to Voluntary Organisations on the basis of schematic norms. The following general principles are also followed:

(i) The organisation should be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. or other relevant laws;

(ii) Should be engaged in voluntary efforts to promote the welfare of society, preferable the target groups serviced by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment;

(iii) Has the requisite experience/expertise in taking up the specific programme for which financial assistance has been sought;

(iv) Financial assistance is generally restricted to 90% of the project cost, the balance 10% being borne by the organisation itself.