

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1833

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2000

SALARIES TO SOLDIERS SENT ON PEACE KEEPING MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE

RAMCHANDRA PASWAN

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Indian soldiers sent in the U.N. Peace Keeping Mission in Sierra Leone have not yet received their salaries from the U.N. and they could not get letters sent to them by their families;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issue; and

(d) the details of other problems reportedly faced by the Indian soldiers in Sierra Leone, and the reaction of the Indian Government thereon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): Full entitlements of overseas allowances are being disbursed to Indian soldiers serving in the UN Peace Keeping Mission in Sierra Leone viz. UNAMSIL and the same are being credited to their individual accounts in banks in India. It has not been possible so far to disburse overseas allowances to the Indian soldiers in Sierra Leone in US dollars because the banks in Sierra Leone are unable to handle cash in dollars. Due to the disturbed situation prevailing in Sierra Leone as well as irregular flights from Accra to Freetown, there was a disruption in the mail service.

(c) Efforts are being made to disburse overseas allowances in US Dollars to the Indian soldiers in Sierra Leone through a neighbouring African country. The problem of disruption in mail service has since been resolved by re-routing of the mail through Conakry, and the troops are receiving their mail regularly now. Meanwhile, orders have been issued for sending one IAF aircraft on courier service to Sierra Leone every month with a view to facilitate disbursement of overseas allowances and also carry mail and other items of personal use for the Indian troops.

(d) There are no other problems faced by the Indian soldiers in Sierra Leone, that have not been addressed and resolved.