

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4484

ANSWERED ON:22.12.2005

BENEFITS TO WIDOWS OF POST- OP. VIJAY

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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn distinction between Operation Vijay and Post Operation Vijay casualties thus diluting the benefits being extended to the widows/next-of-kins of post Operation Vijay casualties;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remove the anomaly in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (c): A distinction has been made by the Government between casualties in war on the one hand and those arising out of border skirmishes and action against militants/terrorists/extremists etc., on the other, owing to the different levels of risk, the intensity of action involved in each case and also in the interest of the morale of the Armed Forces personnel.

According to this policy, Operation Vijay was treated as a war-like engagement and a special welfare package including enhanced ex-gratia compensation of Rs. 10 lakhs to the Next of Kin of the Battle casualties was provided. However, no distinction has been made between Operation Vijay and post Operation Vijay casualties, in so far as the pensionary benefits are concerned. All war widows would be entitled to liberalised family pension.