

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3319
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2006
NATIONAL EX SERVICEMEN WELFARE CORPORATION
Francis George Shri K.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Kerala State Ex-Servicemen League had submitted a memorandum to the Government regarding the problems faced by Ex-Servicemen and their families in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken thereon;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to form a National Ex-Servicemen Welfare Corporation with statutory powers for the welfare and rehabilitation of Ex-Servicemen; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU)

(a) to (e): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3319 FOR ANSWER ON 14.12.2006

Kerala State Ex-servicemen League had submitted a Memorandum to the Government in January 2004 to seek redressal of grievances of ex-servicemen. The demands made by the League in the Memorandum and position thereof is indicated below:

(i) One rank One Pension:- The Government has examined the demand and agreed to give benefit of added years of service of 10, 8 and 6 years to three lowest ranks of Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) i.e. Sepoy, Naik and Havildar with a view to allow them pension of 30 years of qualifying service. Besides, benefit of revision of pension based on maximum pay of the rank and group of the revised pay scale introduced from 1.1.1996 payable to PBOR w.e.f. 1.1.2006.

(ii) Removal of 33 years condition for earning full pension by retired soldiers:- The 5th Central Pay Commission considered this issue but did not agree to the demand since 33 years' condition to earn full pension is a cardinal principle for computation of pension which is uniformly applicable to both the Defence and civilian pensioners.

(iii) Pension to World War-II veterans:- Central Government is providing financial assistance to the needy World War-II veterans for House Repairing Grant (Rs.10,000/-), Medical Grant (Rs.15,000/-), Marriage Grant for daughter (Rs.8,000/-), Penury Grant (Rs.15,000/-) and Monthly Grant of Rs.1,000/- for two years. Besides, all state governments are giving life-long monthly grant to World War-II veterans who are settled in their states. This grant varies from state to state. Proposal to grant pension to them has not been agreed to.

(iv) Effective reservation for ex-servicemen:- The Supreme Court has imposed the ceiling of 50% on the total reservations to be provided to different sections of the society. As the reservations being provided to SC, ST and OBC work out to 49.5%, the reservation being provided to ex-servicemen in Group 'C' & 'D' posts of Central Government Ministries/Departments/Public Sector Undertakings is of horizontal nature which do not have any provision for roster system or carry forward of unutilized vacancies reserved for ex-servicemen.

(v) Employment on compassionate grounds to the dependents of the defence personnel dying in harness:- Compassionate appointments in most of the cases concerning widows/dependants of deceased Defence service personnel cannot be made against combatant posts. Therefore, such requests are to be accommodated against 5% of the direct recruitment vacancies in Group 'C' and 'D' civilian posts of Services Headquarters. This quota of 5% is meant mainly for accommodating the requests from the dependants of deceased civilian employees. As such, the number of vacancies available for compassionate appointment is always less than the requests received and compassionate appointments are provided in most deserving cases.

(vi) Lateral Induction of Armed Forces Personnel into Central Para-military Forces:- The proposal was taken up by the Ministry of Defence with the Ministry of Home Affairs which was not agreed to.

2.The recommendations made in the 20th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence headed by Shri Madan Lal Khurana related to the various issues concerning service conditions of Defence Services personnel, pensionary matters and resettlement and welfare of ex-servicemen.The demands made by the Committee were examined and Action Taken Notes on the recommendations were forwarded to the Lok Sabha Secretariat, which were presented to both the Houses on 26.4.2005.

3.There is no proposal to form a National Ex-Servicemen Welfare Corporation.