

# COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)

## THIRTY-SIXTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

December, 2003/Agrahayana, 1925 (Saka)

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(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)

*(Presented to Lok Sabha on 18 December, 2003)*



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

*December, 2003/Agrahayana, 1925 (Saka)*

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## COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Shri Basudeb Acharia — *Chairman*

### MEMBERS

2. Shri S. Bangarappa
3. Shri Ambati Brahmaniah
4. Shri Ram Rati Bind
5. Shri Bikram Keshari Deo
6. Shri Anant Gudhe
7. Shri Babubhai K. Katara
8. Shri P.R. Khunte
9. Shri P.R. Kyndiah
10. Shri Sis Ram Ola
11. Shri Shriniwas Patil
12. Shri Sunder Lal Patwa
13. Dr. Bikram Sarkar
14. Shri C. Sreenivasan
15. \*Vacant

### SECRETARIAT

- |                     |   |                             |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Shri John Joseph | — | <i>Additional Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri R.C. Ahuja  | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i>      |
| 3. Shri Brahm Dutt  | — | <i>Director</i>             |
| 4. Smt. Neera Singh | — | <i>Under Secretary</i>      |

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\*Vacant *Vice* Shri G. Mallikarjunappa, MP died on 30.11.2003.

## THIRTY-SIXTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)

### INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on Petitions, having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Thirty-sixth Report of the Committee to the house on the following matters:—

- (i) Representation requesting for continuation of payment of family pension to the nominees of the deceased employees of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. (HFCL), Durgapur Unit, West Bengal.
- (ii) Gist of the representations requesting for sanction of Freedom Fighter Pension.
- (iii) Action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee on Petitions (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) in their Twenty-third Report on the representation requesting for regularisation of services of Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Doctors in Indian Railway Medical Services (IRMS).

2. The Committee considered and adopted the draft Thirty-sixth Report at their sitting held on 15th December, 2003.

3. The observations/recommendations of the Committee on the above matters have been included in the Report.

NEW DELHI;  
15 December, 2003  
24 Agrahayana, 1925(Saka)

BASUDEB ACHARIA,  
Chairman,  
Committee on Petitions.

## CHAPTER I

### REPRESENTATION REQUESTING FOR CONTINUATION OF PAYMENT OF FAMILY PENSION TO THE NOMINEES OF THE DECEASED EMPLOYEES OF THE HINDUSTAN FERTILIZERS CORPORATION LTD. (HFCL), DURGAPUR UNIT, WEST BENGAL

Shri Nishith Chowdhury, Office Secretary of the Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) Employees Union, Durgapur, 111/271, Fertilizer Township, Durgapur, West Bengal-713212 submitted a representation requesting for continuation of payment of family pension to the nominees of the deceased employees of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL), Durgapur Unit, West Bengal.

1.2. In the representation, the petitioner *inter-alia* submitted the following points:—

- (i) After bifurcation of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. into five companies, the Durgapur Unit came under HFCL w.e.f. 01.04.1978. Meanwhile, the FCI Family Pension Scheme had been suitably modified/amended by the Board of Directors of HFCL in its 61st meeting held on 11.6.1984. The HFC Employees Family Pension Scheme had been notified to all *vide* Ref. No. HFC/CO/Pers./P-66/2868 dated 21.8.1984. (*Appendix I*) (P.27)
- (ii) As per the modified pension scheme, the nominees of the deceased employees who were in employment prior to the Family Pension Scheme, 1971 became members of HFCL's Family Pension Scheme which included the employees of Durgapur unit of HFCL. The eligible pensioners had been given family pension benefits as per the prescribed rates. Under the pension scheme, the nominees of the employees expiring before 21.8.1984 had to surrender 25% of the Gratuity as per provision of section 5 of the FCI Family Pension Scheme. The nominees of the employees expiring on or after 21.8.1984, however, did not had to surrender any portion of gratuity as this clause had been deleted from the HFC Family Pension Scheme, which came into operation w.e.f. 21.08.1984.

All the dependent widows and other dependents of the deceased employees of the Durgapur unit continued to receive the family pension regularly, till date.

- (iii) On 5th September, 2002 the Union Cabinet took a decision to close down the plants of FCI/HFCL including the Durgapur Unit. The nominees of deceased employees continue to get the family pension, however, the closing operation of the entire Corporation upto 31.03.2003 would eventually deprive the pension beneficiaries of deceased employees from the pension scheme. The widows/other eligible nominees would not get the family pension on

the closure of HFCL. For the existing list of the beneficiaries of the deceased employees (*Appendix-II.*) (P.31)

- (iv) HFCL had issued circular bearing Ref. HFC/CO/Pers/P-68/2218 on 19.09.2002 directing the employees to opt for Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) by 20.12.2002 failing which they will be paid Retrenchment Compensation under Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The employees of Durgapur Unit moved Kolkata High Court and got extension of upto 20.01.2003 for submission of VSS. This order of High Court had been vacated at the initiative of the Government on 03.02.2003; and
- (v) Surprisingly, all the employees of Durgapur Unit barring few senior officers stood released from services of the Company from afternoon of 03.02.2003, itself. In other Units of HFCL at Barauni, Sindri, Haldia, Talcher, Ramagundam etc. about 200-225 employees had been retained as regular employees for carrying out post-closure jobs such as supply of water/electricity, running of schools, payment of dues to released employees etc.

1.3. The petitioner, therefore, requested for the intervention of the Committee on Petitions and direct the concerned authorities to continue the payment of Family Pension to the widows/nominees of the deceased employees, who are presently in receipt of family pension from HFCL at Durgapur Unit. Further, certain facilities of education of wards, quarters and retaining of some employees be extended in the closed units of the Corporation.

1.4. The Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers) were requested to furnish their factual comments on the points raised in the representation. In response, the Ministry examined the matter in consultation with the management of HFCL and informed *vide* their communication dated 23rd January, 2003 that the Employees Family Pension Scheme (FPS) came into force w.e.f. 1st January, 1966 in Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) with the approval of the Board of Directors and it had been applicable till 1971. The Family Pension Scheme (FPS) which came into effect in 1971 had been contributory in nature and Durgapur unit of HFC was already in existence and there were quite a number of employees at the time of this notification many of whom, keeping in view the optional nature of the scheme did not opt for it and preferred to remain under the FCI's Family Pension Scheme. After the bifurcation of FCI into five companies, the HFC under which Durgapur Unit was tagged came into existence w.e.f. 1.4.1978. In HFC, there were 83 legal heirs/spouses covered under the Family Pension Scheme and nearly Rs. 24572/- per month was being paid to them. There was no deduction of gratuity by HFC as this company had come into existence only in 1978 and by that time the scheme was discontinued. The existing FCI's Family Pension Scheme of 1971 was suitably modified/amended by the Board of Directors of HFC. As per the provision of this scheme the nominations of the deceased employees who were in employment prior to the enactment of FPS were granted family pension as per the prescribed rates for which the nominees of the employees expiring before 21.8.1984 had to surrender 25% of the Gratuity as per the provision of Section 5 of the FCI's FPS. The nominees of the employees expiring on or after 21.8.1984, however, did not had to surrender any portion of gratuity as that clause was deleted from the HFC's

FPS, which came into operation w.e.f. 21.8.1984. The salient features of the scheme were as under:—

- I. This scheme was optional and options were taken from the employees on the prescribed form.
- II. For such employees, 25% of the gratuity amount payable to the employees by FCI was deducted while calculating the gratuity amount. This amount so deducted was kept by FCI for giving pension to the widow/widower/children below 18 years.
- III. The pension was payable to the dependents only in case of death of the employee while in service.

As per the scheme, the following payments were made:

- (a) A lump sum amount equivalent to 12 months pension admissible under the scheme.
- (b) Monthly pension was paid as per the rates that :—

Employees having pay scale above Rs. 2100, 10% of pay subject to a minimum Rs. 260 per month and employees having pay scale below Rs. 2100, in that case 12% of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 160 per month was payable."

1.5 The Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Department of Fertilizers further informed that both FCI and HFC were declared as sick enterprises and referred to BIFR. On account of reasons like obsolete technology and high cost of production many units of these two enterprises had suspended production operations. Since these two enterprises were not generating any internal resources the Government have been extending non-plan/plan loan to them for meeting the requirement of salaries/wages and other statutory payments, including family pension, of their employees.

In another communication, the Ministry informed that a Group of Ministers constituted to examine the rehabilitation/restructuring proposals of fertilizer sick public sector undertakings of HFC/FCI/PPCL/PDIL had considered the technoeconomic parameters for revival of these PSUs. The Group of Ministers found that excepting the Jodhpur Mining Organization of HFC/FCI, the other units of the HFC/FCI were unviable and made its recommendations accordingly which were approved by Cabinet on 5th September, 2002 and Government had taken a decision to close majority of the units of these two companies. Accordingly, majority of the employees of both the enterprises have opted for VSS. With the closure of the units of both the companies and inevitable sale of their assets the closure operation will be completed and disbursal of budgetary assistance from the Government will also cease.

1.6. As regards the continuation of payment of the family pension to 42 families of the employees of the Durgapur unit, the Ministry informed that a final decision on the feasibility of continuation of the payment of family pension to these families would need to be deliberated by the Board of Directors of HFC and with other concerned Ministries.

1.7. The Committee, thereafter, took the oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers) on 7th March, 2003 on the issue.

1.8. When the Committee asked about the fate of 42 employee's families of the Durgapur unit after 20.01.2003 i.e. the closure of the Unit and the continuation/grant of payment of Family Pension to the widows/dependent children etc. of the deceased workers and the retired employees of this Unit, the representative of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers stated that :—

"This (FPS) scheme of 1966 was the initiative of the public sector unit itself. But in 1971 the scheme, which had also the blessing at the Government of India level in the nature of statutory scheme and administered by Provident Fund Commissioner came into operation. So, the majority of the employees opted for 1971 scheme. This scheme was later modified in 1995, but the details almost remain as before. But, in some cases, the employees still retain their option of the 1966 scheme. In 1978, a few units were separated as a part of restructure, but Haldia, Barauni and Durgapur were brought under the control of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation. In 1978, HFC took another decision that 25 per cent of gratuity would be deducted from the original scheme, so that, in case, any employee unfortunately expired, the family pension was being paid to the widow or in case widow is not there, minor son or daughter as the case may be. But in 1978, the PSUs also took a decision that no further deduction of gratuity would take place, that is, 25 percent will also not be deducted from the gratuity.

Thus, technically the position is that a majority of the employees today enjoy the benefits of the 1971 and the 1995 scheme administered by Provident Fund Commissioner.

So, one option they have is that these (retired) employees can settle with Provident Fund Commissioner for a lower scale of pension, and that will be granted. The other is that they can wait till 58 years, after that they will be granted and partly, of course, they could also do the commutation. So, we wanted to see whether such a thing can also be adopted for the family pension scheme which was, of course, run by a PSU. The payment roughly comes to about Rs. 1.6 lakh per month. Unfortunately, this is also true that in all these years, even correct verification of the people drawing pension in a manner it should have been done, has not been done. Our endeavour would be and it is being debated in the Board as well as in the Government — that we create some kind of a fund by which the liabilities of pension are honoured in case of those people who are drawing pension as of today. This will be our endeavour to evolve a scheme. We are having a meeting with the Life Insurance Corporation of India that if such a scheme can be transferred to them, how and in what condition they can do that? That is being considered. We are also looking at some of the reserve funds of FCI and HFC which were there for the welfare of the employees whether we can draw upon that and create a fund from which this can annually be given, or the possibility that the 25 per cent deductions

which have been made whether they can be refunded and the scheme can be closed."

1.9. Subsequently in a written note dated 17th March, 2003, the Ministry stated that HFCL was carved out of FCI in 1978. Employees of the HFC/FCI who had opted for the scheme during 1966-1971 continued to be governed by the provisions of that Scheme at the time of taking a decision on closure of HFCL. The legal and other aspects of closure of the Family Pension Scheme were under examination and till a decision was taken to the contrary, the benefits of this scheme shall remain available. As on 03.02.2003, HFCL Durgapur had 913 employees on its rolls. After ascertaining the legal position, HFCL had released 896 employees who had opted for VSS w.e.f. 03.02.2003 afternoon.

1.10. During the course of evidence the Committee enquired about the position of payment of Gratuity and Provident Fund to the employees of the Barauni, Durgapur and Haldia units in addition to the VSS Package, the representative of the Ministry stated that :—

"The total payment would involve the gratuity, ex-gratia payment, transfer of money — called transfer of settlement and leave travel concession. The total fund required was Rs. 290.48 crore. Till date an amount of Rs. 140.55 crore has been disbursed. VSS includes gratuity, ex-gratia, settlement of transfer, leave travel concession etc.

So Rs. 140.55 crore, we have already paid and Rs. 149.93 crore is the requirement now. But this payment of Rs. 149.93 crore is not because funds will not be available. This is because a decision has been taken that those employees who do not even vacate the houses, they should also be paid gratuity. So, their gratuity amount has been paid and ex-gratia amount is withheld. In fact, in the case of Durgapur, there are applications which are, now, coming with 'No-Due Certificates' because quite a few number of employees have vacated the houses. So, their payment of ex-gratia also has been started and two days back, 35 cases were covered and also cheques were being distributed."

1.11. As regards the payment of dues to the employees of the closed down units under FCI, the representative of the Ministry informed that:—

"In the case of Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI), the position as far as the gratuity is concerned, is that Rs. 51 crore has been paid. Only Rs. 5.40 crore is left for payment. An amount of Rs. 11.89 crore in respect of Earned Leave and other encashment of leave, is to be paid. Only Rs. 1.79 crore is left now Rest all are paid.

An amount of Rs. 164.92 crore has already been paid as ex-gratia amount. Ex-gratia is where no dues are received and paid. The amount, now to be paid is Rs. 155.17 crore. So, against the total amount already paid — in the case of FCI, the amount is Rs. 228.58 crore which have been paid — an amount of Rs. 162 crore is to be paid. Out of this amount of Rs. 162 crore, the major amount is



Rs. 155 crore, in the form of ex-gratia. We are ready to pay all this, as soon as they give the 'No due Certificate'."

1.12. To a query as to whether the settlement of issues relating to retention of residential premises of the workers of HFCL was at par with the closed units of FCI, the Ministry in their written note informed as under:—

"The workers and not the officers of FCI have been permitted to retain the quarters subject to withholding of 50% of their ex-gratia and leave encashment dues as per the orders dated 16.12.2002 of the Delhi High Court in a writ petition no. 7914/2002. The High Court has made it obligatory for the petitioner workmen of FCI to undertake to handover the possession of the vacant houses within the stipulated date, failing which they are liable for Contempt of Court. Applicability of the same condition in respect of HFCL is under consideration. There is no proposal to permit the retention of quarters by the employees in lieu of their dues."

1.13. On a query regarding the usage of the school building, residential houses and hospitals in HFL/FCI premises, the representative of the Ministry stated during evidence:

"The Home Ministry wish to utilize the (residential) premises for establishing their special forces. It is because they have to establish battalions. They have always been looking for acquisition of property and other things. We have also offered them to inspect any of the premises in Ramagundam, Talcher, Sindri, Barauni. It is about premises which are available. There will be a large number of premises. On the school, we have three or four applications as of today. For example, in case of Barauni, DAV schools have offered that they would be willing to do that (school related work). In the case of Gorakhpur, we have received some information that some NGOs want to run that unit. Our attitude would be that no school be closed. I can assure you that we would be extremely positive on the issue of education. Although the costing issue is really important for the purpose of audit and everything else, but we would try our level best that it does not come in the way. The important thing is that education must continue."

1.14 In a subsequent note, the Ministry informed that schools were being continued till the end of the current academic session in all the units of the HFCL/FCI.

1.15 The Committee desired to know as to whether the representatives of the Department of Fertilizer on the Board of Directors of HFCL had brought to the notice of the Ministry the various pending issues relating to employees of the closed units in January, 2003. To this, the Ministry in their written note informed that the official representatives have been bringing to the notice of the Ministry various issues pertaining to the employees and based on their feedback, the company has been advised to take suitable action e.g. the company has decided to continue schools and dispensaries and has also allowed the employees to retain quarters till the end of the academic session, although these were not part of the VSS package offered to the employees.



1.16 On the question of the pending issues regarding the workers of HFCL after the closure of the company, which were yet to be decided by the Government, the Ministry in their note stated that there were no other pending issues.

#### Observations/Recommendations

1.17 The Committee note that the Employees Family Pension Scheme came into force w.e.f. 1st January, 1966 in the Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) with the approval of its Board of Directors. After the bifurcation of FCI, the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL) had been carved out of FCI in 1978. The Durgapur Unit came into existence under the HFCL w.e.f. 01.04.1978. The issue of the Family Pension Scheme in HFCL would be divided into two stages i.e. upto the year 1971 and from/after the year 1971. The Family Pension Scheme 1966 had been applicable to the employees of FCI only upto 1971. This Pension Scheme, thereafter, had been modified/replaced by HFCL in 1978, which had been contributory in nature and made optional to the employees as administered by the Provident Fund Commissioner. Since the Durgapur Unit of HFCL was already in existence and there were quite a number of employees, keeping in view the optional nature of the HFC Family Pension Scheme these employees opted to remain under the FCI Family Pension Scheme. As per the provision of the above scheme the nominations of the deceased employees who were in employment prior to the enactment of FPS were granted family pension as per the prescribed rates for which the nominees of the employees expiring before 21.08.1984 had to surrender 25% of the Gratuity as per the provision of Section 5 of the FCI's FPS. The nominees of the employees expiring on or after 21.08.1984, however, did not had to surrender any portion of gratuity as that clause was deleted from the HFC's FPS, which came into operation w.e.f. 21.8.1984. The legal heirs, widows, dependent children of all the deceased employees of the Durgapur Unit have been receiving the due benefits of the Family Pension Scheme. The Committee, however, note that pursuant to a Cabinet decision in September, 2002 to close down all the units of the HFCL/FCI excepting its Jodhpur Mining Organization as these companies had been declared as sick enterprises. The closing/winding up of the Durgapur Unit has been taken in January, 2003. A Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) Package, which had been designed to protect the interest of the employees of the units under closure had been offered by HFCL. As on 03.02.2003, HFCL Durgapur had 913 employees on its rolls. After ascertaining the legal position, HFCL had released 896 employees who had opted for VSS w.e.f. 03.02.2003—afternoon. Meanwhile, HFCL retained some employees in all units to take care of the closure activities and to ensure safety/security of the properties as well as settling the accounts/claims of the employees.

1.18 The main contention of the petitioners who are the employees of Durgapur Unit of HFCL/FCI is that upon the closure of HFCL the Family Pension being paid to the widows/dependents of about 42 of the deceased employees of the unit should not be discontinued. They want that the payment of family pension to the legal heirs of the employees should be retained. Also, the dues of the employees of the closed units be settled along with other benefits of education of children, residential quarters and retention of few employees for the closure operations.

**1.19** The Committee cannot but express their deep concern over the fact that a final decision on the feasibility of continuation of payment of family pension to 42 families of employees of the Durgapur Unit of HFC has not yet been taken and the matter is still under examination of the Government. The Committee are of the firm view that had the various aspects of closure of the HFCL/FCI units *vis-a-vis* the benefits like family pension to the retired employees and their dependents been decided prior to the closure operations of these units, the affected employees' families would have been saved from their present state of dilemma. During the course of examination of Committee were informed that the matter was being taken up with LIC for exploring the possibility of having some policy for the dependents of the deceased employees. The Committee, therefore, recommended that timely conclusive action should be taken by the concerned authorities for continuation of payment of the family pension to the legal dependents of deceased employees of the Durgapur unit of HFCL. The Committee would like to be apprised about the action taken in this regard within two months of the presentation of the Report.

**1.20** In the context of closure of the HFCL/FCI sick units, the Committee have been apprised that the Government have decided to extend the following concessions to their employees after their release under VSS:

- Permission to retain company quarters till end of the current academic session (April 2003);
- Continuation of the schools and dispensaries (at reduced scales) till the end of the current academic session.

Considering the impact of the closure of schools etc. on the wards of the employees/ex-employees of HFC and others who have been studying in HFC run schools/institutions, the Committee would like the Government to continue these and if necessary in co-ordination/jointly with State Government, NGOs or other educational institutions.

## CHAPTER II

### GIST OF THE REPRESENTATIONS REQUESTING FOR SANCTION OF FREEDOM FIGHTER PENSION

2.1 Representations, letters and telegrams from various individuals, associations etc. ventilating grievances falling under the administrative control of the government of India and which are not covered by the rules relating to petitions are considered by the Committee on Petition as representations under Direction 95 of the Directions by the Speaker.

2.2 As per procedure adopted by the Committee, representations requesting for monetary or financial assistance in some form are not taken up by the Committee for examination. As an exception, representations requesting for freedom fighter pensions after being received in the Secretariat are forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs for disposal under intimation to the petitioners direct.

2.3 The Committee received a number of representations from the freedom fighters particularly from Gulbarga District of Karnataka. From the enclosures of the representations it was observed that, as required, these cases were duly recommended by concerned State Government viz. Government of Karnataka after due scrutiny. Considering the fact that aggrieved freedom fighters are representing their cases for decades and being in the age group of 70-90 years, they are at their last leg of their life, the Committee felt that their requests need consideration. In view of this material fact, the Ministry of Home Affairs was requested to examine these cases and furnish factual position in each of such case.

2.4 The Ministry of Home Affairs, after examining the referred cases, have sanctioned pension in favour of the following freedom fighters:—

- (i) Shri Sharanappa, R/o. Near Yallaling Temple, Shivaji Nagar, Gulbarga.
- (ii) Shri Chogla Pawar, R/o H. No. 1, Jai Hanuman Tanda, Station Area, Gulbarga.
- (iii) Shri Shivalingappa, R/o village: Kannur, Taluqa & District Gulbarga.
- (iv) Smt. Laxmamma, W/o Late Shri Dastayya, R/o Plot No. 8, Arya Idiga Samaj Layout, behind R.T.O. Office, Sedam Road, Gulbarga.
- (v) Shri Sri Kishan Devakaran Joshi, R/o Asif Gunj, Ayyarwadi, H. No. 8-891, Gulbarga.
- (vi) Shri Chandramohan, R/o. H.No. 4-58-601, Mahatma Bashveshwat Colony, (M.B. Nagar 5th Cross), Gulbarga.
- (vii) Smt. Sulchana Bai, W/o. Late Shri Narayana Rao Gowii, R/o H.NO. 4-791, Mukampur, Sandal Gali, Gulbarga.

- (viii) Shri Bhimsen Rao, R/o Sadashiv Nagar, Plot No. 21, Opp. (P&T) Quarters, Post & District Gulbarga.
- (ix) Smt. Kharon Bee, W/o. Late Abdul Haque @ Kuru Babu, Village: R/o Thimajipet, Post Gumkundda, District Mahaboobnagar (A.P.).
- (x) Smt. Ratnabai, W/o. Late Shri Sharanabasappa Patil, R/o H. No. 1-866, Bhagwati Nagar, M.S.K. Mill Road, Gulbarga.
- (xi) Shri Nagendrapa Ghatikar, R/o Sarab Bazar, Makampur, Gulbarga.
- (xii) Shri Babu Rao, R/o Plot No. 21-22, H. No. 2/731/57 T, Ratna's cottage (near STBT), Bapu Nagar, Gulbarga.
- (xiii) Shri Khurshed Ali, R/o Chacha Hoel, Mominpura, Muslim Chowk, Gulbarga.

2.5 Several other cases are under examination by the Ministry of Home Affairs. In some cases the Ministry have sought clarifications/additional information from the Government of Karnataka.

#### **Observation/Recommendation**

**2.6 The Committee note with satisfaction that through their intervention, the grievances of some of the freedom fighters have been redressed.**

### CHAPTER III

#### ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA) IN THEIR TWENTY-THIRD REPORT ON REPRESENTATION REQUESTING FOR REGULARISATION OF SERVICES OF AYURVEDIC AND HOMOEOPATHIC DOCTORS IN INDIAN RAILWAY MEDICAL SERVICES (IRMS).

3.1 The Committee on Petitions (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) in their Twenty-Third Report presented to Lok Sabha on 19th December, 2002 had dealt with a representation requesting for regularisation of services of Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Doctors in Indian Railways Medical Services (IRMS).

3.2 The Committee made certain observations/recommendations in the Report and the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) were requested to implement those recommendations and furnish their action taken notes for the consideration of the Committee.

3.3 Action taken notes have been received from the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) in respect of all the recommendations contained in the Report. Some of the recommendations made by the Committee and the replies thereto furnished by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) are discussed in the succeeding paragraphs.

3.4 In paragraph 1.35 of the Report, the Committee observed as follows:—

"The Committee note from the submissions made by the petitioner that the Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic treatment is an indigenous system of medicine which is becoming popular in India and abroad. It is highly efficacious and also less expensive than allopathic. Shri Phani Dhar, ex. Director General (Railway Health Services) had also stressed the necessity to enhance these Indian systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM&H) prevailing in Railways *vide* letter No. 96/H/15/2 dated 3.5.2000 to all CMD/Indian Railways.

3.5 In their action taken reply the Ministry of Railways (Railways Board) have stated as follows:—

"Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic systems of treatments are believed to be efficacious for certain conditions and the cost of treatment is assessed to be less expensive as scientific investigations and interventional procedures are not there in these systems which of course are expensive. The medicines are also not patented or standardised so the treatment costs are considerably less than allopathic system.

Yes, a letter was issued by Health Directorate on 3rd May, 2000 to General Managers seeking action on a few matters such as:

- (a) Research in ISM&H
- (b) Recognition of some ISM&H Institutions if they have any.
- (c) Yoga and its applicability which are of exploratory nature duly acknowledging the role of ISM&H in health care.

The informal feed back received from the zones indicate that at a few places, part time Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic dispensaries are run in railway hospital premises and they are manned by Honorary Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic practitioners engaged by respective staff benefit fund committee. However, there is no demand for further strengthening of the services as the patronisation has been poor and some of the patients, who come to railway hospitals taking advantage of availability of dispensary, seek the services of Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic physicians, occasionally."

3.6 In para 1.36 of the Report, the Committee observed as follows:—

"One of the main demand of the petitioners is that the Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic Doctors are practicing this (ISM&H) system with great success in many states and are also getting full benefits. However, inspite of existing full effort of professional skill, the Doctors who are catering to Railways are surviving with meagre honorarium of Rs. 2500/- per month (Rs. 83 per day) and are devoid of all privileges of Railways."

3.7 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) have stated that the Doctors of ISM&H on Railways are engaged by the Staff Benefit Fund Committees on part time basis purely on honorary basis. This system cannot be adopted on Railways as a parallel system to Allopathic medical system. Railways are primarily a transport organization and Health Care needs of Railway beneficiaries are effectively managed by existing cadre of IRMS doctors. Some of the states might have adopted this system as alternate system of medicine and hence the doctors of ISM&H are treated at par with the doctors of Allopathic system. Homoeopathic & Ayurvedic doctors are not employed in Railways as appointments are done through UPSC against regular posts only.

3.8 In paras 1.37 and 1.38 of the Report the Committee observed as follows:—

"The Committee note from the submissions made by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) that in Railways, medical service is not a core activity, it is only a secondary activity because of which they do not want to expand more. Also, the Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic Doctors are appointed by Staff Benefit Fund (SBF) Committee and the Railways do not employ them directly because appointments in Railways are done by UPSC selection and these doctors are not appointed by UPSC."

(Para 1.37)

"The Committee also note that the Railway Board had issued a circular No. 77/H/1514 dated 21 May, 1977 giving directional instructions to appoint Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic doctors in the Railways to function simultaneously,



alongwith Allopathic doctors in the scale of Rs. 650-1200 which is equivalent to the present scale of Rs. 8000-13500."

(Para 1.38)

3.9 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) have stated that the Board's letter referred to above was of exploratory nature seeking proposals, if any, for appointing indigenous and homoeopathic medical practitioners. No firm proposals were received from the zones and the matter was not pursued.

3.10 In para 1.41 of the Report, the Committee recommended as follows:—

"The Committee wish to point out that ISM&H system is working with great success in many states and the Doctors are getting full benefits. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should review the scope for appointing indigenous and homoeopathic medical practitioners, afresh for the benefit of the Railway."

3.11 In their action taken reply the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) have stated that as per recommendation of the Honourable Committee, the matter is under examination.

3.12 In para 1.42 of the Report, the Committee recommended as follows:—

"The Committee are also of the opinion that in view of the services being rendered by these part time Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic Doctors, the honorarium of Rs. 2500/- to Rs. 3000/- which they are getting at present is meagre. The Committee, therefore, are of the firm view that pending regularisation or appointment of these doctors as full time doctors, the Ministry should consider enhancement of the allowances/honorarium of Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic doctors. The Committee expect that earnest efforts would be made by the Ministry with a positive perspective in this regard. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard within 1 month of the presentation of the report of the Committee."

3.13 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) have stated as follows:—

"In pursuance of recommendation of the Committee and after careful examination of the matter, Ministry of Railways have revised the honorarium payable to honorary physicians engaged by the Staff Benefit Fund Committees in the Homoeopathic/Ayurvedic Dispensaries as follows:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Revised</u>
(a) Honorary Physicians engaged to work for around eight hours a day	Rs. 3,000 p.m.	Rs. 4,500 p.m.
(b) Honorary Physicians engaged to work for around four hour a day	Rs. 2,500 p.m.	Rs. 3,200 p.m.

The revised rates are effective from 1.4.2003"

3.14 In paras 1.44 to 1.46 of the Report, the Committee recommended as follows:—

"The Committee have been informed that Railways are providing comprehensive health care facilities through a network of 584 health units, 124 Hospitals (including 9 zonal Hospitals and 5 super—speciality hospitals) and any further expansion in the form of ISM&H is not feasible due to huge cost outlay. Also, in case of emergency the Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic doctors cannot be entrusted with medical examination certification. The patronisation in the ISM&H dispensaries is also not encouraging.

(Para 1.44)

"The Committee have also been informed that on an average only 2% patients attend Homoeo/Ayurvedic Clinic out of total OPD attendance and these 2% patients also do not depend solely on Homoeopathic/Ayurvedic medicines for their treatment but visit allopathic clinics also. To provide ISM facilities to Railway beneficiaries an arrangement is being made with Central Government Health Services (CGHS) by paying per capital cost."

(Para 1.45)

"The Committee cannot but express their deep discontent over the fact that in spite of a comprehensive health care system in railways, an arrangement for ISM facilities has been sought from the CGHS. On the other hand, the Railways have posed that due to huge cost outlay and poor patronisation; ISMH facilities to Railway beneficiaries is not encouraging. The Committee are, therefore, of the firm view that instead of seeking services from CGHS, the Railway Medical services should be expanded with a ratio of permanent arrangement of Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic treatment dispensaries. The Committee recommend that the Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic doctors may be appointed on regular basis by Railways in a permanent capacity for benefit of the patients."

(Para 1.46)

3.15 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) have stated that in pursuance of recommendation of the Committee the matter has been carefully re-examined by the Ministry of Railways. Health Care is not the core activity of Railways. Railways over a period of time have evolved a system of Health care to their beneficiaries as per needs. The job requirement of Railway medical organization includes medical certification of fitness of staff especially working in safety category, curative services for a wide array of medical conditions, emergency medical aid, accident rescue and relief works, immunization, etc. The existing system is adequately meeting the requirements of Railways and further expansion by appointing Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic practitioners on regular basis is not found feasible.

#### Observations/Recommendations

3.16 The Committee have been apprised that in pursuance of their recommendations, the Ministry of Railways have revised the honorarium payable to honorary physicians, engaged to work for around eight hours a day, from Rs. 3000 p.m. to Rs. 4,500 p.m. and for those who work for around four hours a day



from Rs. 2,500 p.m. to Rs. 3,200 p.m. by the Staff Benefit Fund Committees in the Homoeopathic/Ayurvedic Dispensaries effective from 1.4.2003.

3.17 Regarding the requirement of appointing these doctors on regular basis by Railways for the benefit of the employees the Committee have been apprised that Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) have examined the matter and have concluded that Health Care is not the core activity of the Railways. Also, the existing system is adequately meeting the requirements of the Railways and further expansion by appointing Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic practitioners on regular basis is not found feasible.

3.18 The Committee, however, note from the earlier submissions made by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) that to provide ISM facilities to Railway beneficiaries an arrangement is being made with Central Government Health Services (CGHS) by paying per capita cost by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board).

3.19 The Committee take a serious note of the contradictory submissions being made by the Ministry in stating that an arrangement for ISM facilities has been sought from the CGHS by paying per capita cost. On the other hand, the Railways have taken the position that the existing system is adequately meeting the requirements of Railways and further expansion by appointing Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic practitioners on regular basis is not found feasible. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that instead of seeking services from CGHS, the Railway Medical Services should be expanded by appointing Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic doctors on regular basis for treatment in the Railway dispensaries/hospitals for the benefit of the patients. To start with the existing honorary physicians working in Homoeopathic/Ayurvedic Dispensaries of Railways may be appointed/absorbed on regular basis.

NEW DELHI;  
15 December, 2003  
24 Agrahayana, 1925 (Saka)

BASUDEB ACHARIA,  
Chairman,  
Committee on Petitions,  
Lok Sabha.

**APPENDIX-I**

(See para 1.2(i) of Chapter-I)

**HINDUSTAN FERTILIZER CORPORATION LIMITED  
CENTRAL OFFICE : PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT**

Ref. No. HFC/CO/Pers-/P-66/2868

Dated: 21-8-1984.

**INTER OFFICE MEMO**

FROM	TO
MANAGER (P&A): II	ALL HEADS OF UNITS/ DIVISIONS/OFFICES.
HFCL : NEW DELHI	

**Sub: HFC Employees Family Pension Scheme.**

The Board of Directors in its 61st Meeting held on 11.6.1984 (*vide* Resolution No. 61.7 and Item No. 6) has approved some amendments/modifications over the F.C.I. (now H.F.C.) Family Pension Scheme. The modified scheme *viz.* HFC Employees Family Pension Scheme is at Annexure and it will be made effective from 11.6.1984.

Sd/-

(DEV PARKASH PAWHA)  
MANAGER (PERS. & ADMN.)

Encl:- as above.

**Copy to:-**

- (1) All Heads of Finance Deptt. of Units/Divisions/Offices.
- (2) All Heads of Pera. Deptt. of Units/Divisions/Offices.
- (3) Chief (F), Manager (P&A), Co., New Delhi.
- (4) All HOSs, Central Office, New Delhi.
- (5) All Officers in the Pers. Deptt.
- (6) Secy. HFC. Employees Associations, CO, New Delhi.
- (7) Relevant files.

**HINDUSTAN FERTILIZER CORPORATION LIMITED  
DURGAPUR UNIT : PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT**

Ref. No. DP/Pers./Cir-36

Dated: 3-9-84

**Copy forwarded to:**

1. All Heads of the Deptt. for circulation amongst the employees.

2. All Unions/Associations.
3. All officers of Pers. Deptt.

Sd/-  
for Personal Manager

c.c. Cir-7, Notice board.  
Cir-4.

ANNEXURE

**Sub: HFC Employees Family Pension Scheme.**

1. The Scheme may be called the "HFC Employees Family Pension Scheme."
2. It shall come into force with immediate effect and applicable to all the existing employees who are member of the Corporation's Provident Fund Scheme.
3. DEFINITIONS:
  - (i) The word "Management" wherever appearing in the Scheme would mean the Chairman and/or Managing Director.
  - (ii) "Family" for the purpose of this Scheme will include following relatives of the employees.
    - a. widow in the case of a male employee.
    - b. Husband in the case of a female employee residing with the employees.
    - c. Sons/Dependent brothers below 18 years of age;
    - d. Un-married daughters/dependent sisters below 21 years of age.
    - e. Father/mother of the employee wholly dependant upon the employee.
  - (iii) "Pay" for the purpose of the scheme would mean basic pay, special pay and personal pay, if any, which the employee was drawing at the time of death.
  - (iv) "Employee" for the purpose of this scheme would mean all employees in the services of the Corporation including the Contractor's Workers who are member of the Provident Fund Scheme.
  - (v) "Natural guardian" would mean any other person appointed under the Authority of Law to lookafter the affairs of minor or insane member of the family.
4. The scheme will apply to all employees including the Contractors' workers and are members of the Provident Fund but it does not include any casual/daily rated employees, trainees, re-employed personnel and an employee on deputation to HFC.

NOTE:

"Re-employed personnel" would mean those persons who have been re-employed either after superannuation or after retirement on completion of

minimum service of 20 years or so which may have been prescribed by the ex-employee. It is immaterial whether such an employee would or would not have retired after receiving the pension/pensionary benefits.

5. In the case of death of an employee before superannuation, following payments will be made to the members of his family:—

(i) A lumpsum amount equivalent to 12 months pension admissible under clause (ii) of this paragraph.

(ii) Monthly pension at the following rates:—

<i>Pay of the Employee</i>	<i>Rate of Monthly Pension</i>
(i) Rs. 2100 and above	10% of pay with a minimum of Rs. 260/- p.m.
(ii) Rs. 1200 and above and up to Rs. 2100/-	12% of pay with a minimum of Rs. 160/- p.m.
(iii) Above Rs. 400 and upto Rs. 1200/-	15% of pay with a minimum of Rs. 100/- per month.
(iv) Below Rs. 400/-	30% of pay with a minimum of Rs. 60/- per month.

#### 6. Family Pension to whom payable

Subject to the provisions of rule '5' of this scheme, the family pension is payable:—

- to the widow or widower upto the date of death or re-marriage whichever is earlier.
- failing (a), to the eldest surviving minor son until he attains the age of 18 years.
- failing (a) & (b); to the eldest surviving unmarried daughter until she attains the age of 21 years or marries, whichever is earlier.
- failing (a), (b) & (c); to the eldest surviving dependent brother/sister until he or she, as the case may be, attains the age of 18 years and 21 years, respectively;
- failing (a), (b), (c) & (d); to the father or mother residing with and wholly dependent upon the employee upto their date of death or re-marriage, whichever is earlier.

The pension shall not be paid to more than one person at a time.

#### NOTE:

- In cases where there are two or more widows, family pension shall be payable to the eldest surviving widow. On her death it shall be payable to the next surviving widow, if any. The term "eldest" would mean seniority with reference to the date of marriage.

- (ii) In the event of re-marriage or death of the widow or widower, the pension will be granted to the minor children through their natural guardian. In disputed cases, however, payments will be made through a legal guardian.
- (iii) In the event of death of an employee and his wife, when both were Corporations employees, the family will be eligible to draw two family pension provided both of these were members of the Corporation's Provident Fund Scheme.

7. All employees untitled to the benefits of the Scheme shall be required to furnish details of their "Family" as defined in Rule '3' of the Scheme and clearly indicate the death of birth of each member with his/her relationship with the Corporation's employee. This statement shall be in duplicate and to be countersigned by the Head of the Department and a copy to be kept in the Personnel Department as well as a copy in the finance. Department, Employees will thereafter be required to keep this statement upto the date. Additions and alterations in this statement will be made by the Personnel Deptt. from time to time on receipt of information from the employees concerned through their Head of Department. The existing employees are required to furnish a fresh statement in this regard.

8. Any dispute arising out of the Scheme is to be referred to Central Office and the decision taken thereon by Chairman and/or Managing Director will be final.

## APPENDIX-II

(See Para 1.2 (iii) of Chapter I)

Sl. No.	Name of the Deceased Employees	C/E No.	Name of Pensioner	Relation	Date of Death	Amount of Pension (Rs.)
1.	R.B. Dutta	176/1214	Sarathi Dutta	Wife	3.01.94	432
2.	J.P. Karan	136/1223	Sabitri Devi	Wife	28.06.88	129
3.	P.C. Dutta	302/1242	Subhasini Dutta	Wife	09.10.81	149.1
4.	U.P. Banerjee	166/1267	Bijaya Banerjee	Wife	13.02.80	141.75
5.	K.P. Mukherjee	373/1317	Swapna Mukherjee	Wife	17.05.91	420
6.	A.K. Ghatak	373/1318	Labanya Prava Ghatak	Wife	02.09.80	131.85
7.	M.L. Ghose	022/1323	Basana Ghose	Wife	23.06.85	160
8.	Babulal	196/1339	Bindu Kumari Paswan	Daughter	01.09.88	214.8
9.	P.N. Dutta	196/1341	Laxmi Dutta	Wife	27.02.90	237.6
10.	Lalta Prasad	196/1358	Ramraji Singh	Wife	01.02.86	179.25
11.	N.C. Mondal	032/1361	Bina Pani Mondal	Wife	06.12.93	260
12.	Amuprasad	136/1371	Nira Devi Prasad	Wife	15.10.86	162.75
13.	B.B. Roy	478/1373	Mandhabi Lata Roy	Wife	01.08.97	128.4
14.	Kuroram Ghosh	362/1497	Chabi Ghosh	Wife	15.03.97	245.5
15.	Bijoy Roy	196/1500	Adara Bala Roy	Wife	21.06.86	141.75
16.	S.N. Roy	196/1501	Sabitri Roy	Wife	22.10.82	100
17.	S.K. Thakura	337/1520	Sumitra Thakura	Wife	26.08.91	214.32
18.	N.N. Nath	011/1527	Lata Nath	Wife	01.02.2000	371.55
19.	S.D. Biswas	428/1541	Arati Biswas	Wife	06.09.80	209.4
20.	B.R. Chatterjee	247/1547	Tripti Chatterjee	Wife	23.08.91	350
21.	M.R. Patel	012/1556	Bhikiben Patel	Wife	20.01.90	233.2
22.	B.B. Mitra	156/1560	Reba Mitra	Wife	24.06.92	420
23.	S.K. Banerjee	347/1580	Santa Banerjee	Wife	05.03.97	371.55
24.	R.N. Chakraborty	166/1658	Nihar Kana Chakraborty	Wife	02.12.88	237.6

Sl. No.	Name of the Deceased Employees	C/E No.	Name of Pensioner	Relation	Date of Death	Amount of Pension (Rs.)
25.	J.C. Roychowdhury	384/1677	Nilima Roychowdhury	Wife	22.01.83	154.5
26.	T.K. Sarkar	384/1686	Utpala Sarkar	Wife	30.01.93	267.2
27.	Dr. S.K. Paul	428/1690	Jyotsna Paul	Wife	01.10.87	605
28.	A.K. Banerjee	428/1716	Bela Rani Banerjee	Wife	04.09.2000	361.55
29.	Nagarmal Sonkar	216/1854	Sumitra Devi Sonkar	Wife	20.09.93	260
30.	R.K. Banerjee	031/1894	Molina Banerjee	Wife	18.05.95	275.7
31.	M.S. Bhattacharjee	357/1903	Sadhana Bhattacharjee	Wife	11.05.89	330
32.	S. Das	357/1974	Anjali Das	Wife	06.11.89	file closed
33.	N.K. Mukherjee	021/2011	Laxmi Mukherjee	Wife	23.09.88	396
34.	D.C. Paul	021/2098	Ita Paul	Wife	13.04.2001	432
35.	K.B. Nair	031/2128	Padama Balan Nair	Wife	16.06.2001	432
36.	N.K. Singh	011/2135	Sujit Singh	Son	26.07.97	file closed
37.	S.N. Nag	138/2141	Kanan Bala Nag	Wife	12.01.93	no claim
38.	S.C. Bauri	337/2371	Kanan Bala Bauri	Wife	22.03.91	420
39.	R.C. Roy	337/2747	Anjali Roy	Wife	15.04.92	432
40.	S. Sarkar	011/3056	Jaba Rani Sarkar	Wife	26.07.89	384
41.	Dr. A.K. Gupta	337/3192	Minati Gupta	Wife	24.12.80	260
42.	D.N. Singh	081/4065	Parbati Singh	Wife	16.10.99	633

## MINUTES

(I)

### COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-NINTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS  
(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA) HELD ON 7TH MARCH, 2003 IN COMMITTEE  
ROOM 'D', PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI

The Committee sat from 15.00 hrs. 15.30 hrs.

#### PRESENT

Shri Basudeb Acharia — *Chairman*

#### MEMBERS

2. Shri Ambati Brahmanaiah
3. Shri Ram Rati Bind
4. Shri Bikram Keshari Deo
5. Shri P.R. Khunte
6. Shri P.R. Kyndiah
7. Shri Sis Ram Ola
8. Shri Shriniwas Patil
9. Dr. Bikram Sarkar

#### SECRETARIAT

- |                      |   |                         |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Shri S.C. Rastogi | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i>  |
| 2. Shri Brahm Dutt   | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |
| 3. Smt. Neera Singh  | — | <i>Under Secretary</i>  |

#### Witnesses

##### *Representatives of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers*

- |                          |   |                                                                |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Nripendra Mishra | — | Secretary                                                      |
| 2. Shri Sudhir Krishna   | — | Joint Secretary & CMD of Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) |
| 3. Shri Balvinder Kumar  | — | Joint Secretary                                                |



4. Shri Rajneesh Goel — Director
5. Shri K.S. Ponnuswami — Director (Finance), HFC
6. Shri S. Biswas — General Manager, FCI

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the witnesses to the sitting of the Committee and invited their attention to the provisions contained in direction 58 of the direction by the Speaker, Lok Sabha.

3. The Committee then took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers on the representation requesting for continuation of payment of family pension to the nominees of the deceased employees of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL), Durgapur Unit, West Bengal.

4. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTY-FIFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
PETITIONS HELD ON 15TH DECEMBER, 2003 IN COMMITTEE  
ROOM 'B', PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI

The Committee sat from 15.00 hrs. to 16.00 hrs.

PRESENT

Shri Basudeb Acharia — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Ambati Brahmanaiah
3. Shri Ram Rati Bind
4. Shri Bikram Keshari Deo
5. Shri Sis Ram Ola
6. Dr. Bikram Sarkar

SECRETARIAT

- |                     |   |                        |
|---------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1. Shri Brahm Dutt  | — | <i>Director</i>        |
| 2. Smt. Neera Singh | — | <i>Under Secretary</i> |

WITNESSES

Representatives of the Ministry of Finance  
(Department of Economic Affairs—Banking Division)

- |                         |   |                                        |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------------------|
| 1. Shri N.S. Sisodia    | — | Secretary, (Financial Sector)          |
| 2. Shri G.C. Chaturvedi | — | Joint Secretary, (Banking & Insurance) |
| 3. Shri G.R. Summan     | — | Director, (Banking Division)           |

Representatives of the State Bank of India

- |                          |   |                                                |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Shri A.K. Purwar      | — | Chairman, SBI                                  |
| 2. Shri Santhanakrishnan | — | Dy. Managing Director, SBI                     |
| 3. Shri A. Krishna       | — | General Manager (HRD & Charge Management), SBI |
| 4. Shri Hariharan        | — | Dy. MD/CCO, SBI                                |
| 5. Shri S.A. Farooqui    | — | Consultant, SBI                                |
| 6. Shri S.K. Sinha       | — | General Manager & Advisor (Law), SBI           |

2. At the outset, the Committee condoled the sad demise of Shri G. Mallikarjunappa, a member of the Committee. The Committee stood in silence for a while to pay homage to the departed soul.

3. Thereafter, the Committee considered the Draft Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh reports of the Committee and adopted the same. The Committee also authorised the Chairman to finalise the Reports and present them to the House on 18th December, 2003.

4. The Committee then took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs—Banking Division) on a representation requesting to implement voluntary Retirement Scheme for State Bank of India VRS—2001 rejectees.

5. The Chairman welcomed the witnesses to the sitting of the Committee and invited their attention to the provisions contained in direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Speaker regarding confidentiality of the proceedings. The Committee then put questions on the subject under consideration of the Committee which were replied to by the witnesses.

6. A verbatim record of the proceedings was kept.

*The Committee then adjourned.*