

Pension Schemes for Working Journalists and Non-Journalist Employees

*35. SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the two alternative pension schemes suggested by the Expert Group for the working journalists and non-journalist employees of newspapers and news agencies have been examined by Government;

(b) the salient features of the two alternative schemes;

(c) which of the two schemes has been approved by Government; and

(d) when Government propose to introduce the said pension scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) to (d). The alternative pension scheme suggested by the Group has been examined. Both the Schemes provides for payment of retiring pension from the age of 60 years, subject to completion of 20 years pensionable service. The first scheme provides for payment of a monthly pension ranging between Rs. 200/- to Rs. 400/- subject to payment of contribution of 5% per month. The second scheme provides for payment of monthly pension ranging between Rs. 200/- to Rs. 825/- subject to payment of contribution of 8.83% per month. In addition, both the schemes provides for payment of disability pension and widow pension.

2. The Government is considering a proposal for making a suitable enabling provision in the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 for introducing a pension scheme. A decision regarding the introduction of the pension scheme will be taken thereafter in consultation with the Central Board of Trustees of the

Employees Provident Fund.

Storage Capacity

*36. SHRI P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate storage facilities do not exist in the country at present;

(b) if so, the extent of shortfall;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide financial aid to the State Civil Supplies Corporations to construct godowns; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA):

(a) to (d). Total foodgrain storage capacity available with Food Corporation of India is adequate to meet the requirement of the buffer/operational stocks level in the country on a macro-level basis. However some additional capacity has to be planned for foodgrain storage on micro-level basis to take care of regional imbalances and the needs of remote, hilly and other inaccessible areas.

2. Department of Civil Supplies is operating a scheme for providing financial assistance on 75% loan and 25% subsidy basis for construction of godowns to the North Eastern States, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The assistance under this scheme can also be utilised for construction of godowns by the Civil Supplies Corporations in the aforesaid States.

Drinking Water Supply to Urban Population

*37. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: