

and the widows of ex-Servicemen who died before 1st January, 1964;

(b) if so, the names of the States which have contributed their share for this purpose and the steps taken by Government to ensure that the remaining States also falls in line;

(c) whether Government propose to assume full responsibility in this regard and ensure payment of pension even in respect of those widows who live in such States as are not contributing their share;

(d) if so, the likely date by which this would be done; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE :
(SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) :

(a) : War Widows e.g. widows of those killed in war, are already in receipt of a "special family pension" irrespective of the fact whether their husbands died in

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Bihar
3. Gujarat
4. Haryana
5. Himachal Pradesh
6. Jammu & Kashmir
7. Kerala
8. Karnataka
9. Madhya Pradesh
10. Maharashtra
11. Orissa

The matter is being pursued with the remaining States and Union Territories. It is expected that these States and Union Territories will also adopt the Scheme within a reasonable time.

(e) : Does not arise.

action before or after 1-1-1964. The entire expenditure on this account is being met by the Central Government.

Widows of ex-servicemen are not entitled to a REGULAR pension. However, widows of ex-servicemen who retired after 1-1-1964 are eligible for "family pension" at a minimum of Rs. 450/- per month.

Widows of ex-servicemen who retired prior to 1-1-1964 are not entitled to either a regular pension or a family pension. They are, however, eligible to financial assistance at the rate of Rs. 50/- per month under a Central Government Scheme. Half the expenditure incurred under this scheme is borne by the Central Government, the remaining half being borne by the State Government/Union Territory Administration concerned.

(b) to (d) : The States and Union Territories that have implemented the Scheme of financial assistance to pre 1-1-1964 pensioners widows are :

12. Punjab
13. Rajasthan
14. Tamil Nadu
15. Uttar Pradesh
16. Tripura
17. Andaman & Nicobar
18. Arunachal Pradesh
19. Delhi
20. Goa
21. Mizoram

Reports of Expert Panels Set up by NDC

322. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Five Expert Panels set up

at the meeting of the National Development Council on 12th and 13th July, 1984 have since submitted their reports on the various issues assigned to them;

(b) if so, the main outlines of these reports including a summary of their recommendations; and

(c) if not, the likely date by which the reports are expected from the Panels ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) to (c) : The National Development Council while approving the Approach to the Seventh Plan 1985-90 had recommended setting up of Expert Groups on some specific issues connected with the formulation of the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Subsequently, three Expert Committees were set up by the Planning Commission (August, 1984). The specific issues remitted to these Committees were :

- (i) Whether the provision for maintenance of assets created out of public sector investment should be an item of Plan expenditure or of non-Plan expenditure.
- (ii) The scope and role of Centrally sponsored schemes in sectoral development plans.
- (iii) whether the Seventh Plan should provide in its formal structure for the effects of inflation, both on resources and on costs on investments.

The reports of the first two Committees have been received recently by the Planning Commission, while the third Committee is yet to submit its report.

As the Committees were set up on the direction of the National Development Council, their reports would have to be submitted to the Council for its consideration.

Development of Hilly Areas

323. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4806 on 24 August, 1983 regarding Advisory Committee for development of hilly areas and state :

(a) the contribution made by the Advisory Committee of Experts for the development of hilly areas and the formulation of any strategy for the development of hill States regions in the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if not, the exact date by which the Committee would submit its proposals in respect of the evolution of the strategy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) The Advisory Committee of experts for development of hill areas has held two meetings so far. The Committee discussed general problems of the region and certain specific programmes. The Committee generally agreed that (i) the main focus should be on the people and their basic needs i.e. food, fodder, fuel, education, health, etc; (ii) micro-watershed should be the unit of development and (iii) voluntary agencies should be encouraged to participate in eco-development programmes. The views of the Committee have been communicated to the Working Group on development of hill areas in the Seventh plan. The Working Group is expected to take note of these views in formulating its recommendations. The report of the Working Group is awaited.

(b) The Committee is an advisory body and not expected to submit any formal report. The views of the Committee are sought on specific issues as and when the need is felt.

Proposal to Produce Oil from Coal

324. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :