

Assistance from Aid India Consortium

6439. PROF. MADHU
DANAVATE:

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI MOHD. ASRAR
AHMED:
SHRI MADHAVRAO
SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the World Bank's Aid-India consortium has offered a meagre assistance of 3.4 billion dollars for the fiscal year 1980-81;

(b) if so, making allowance for the existing inflation, is this volume of assistance not inadequate to meet the development needs of India; and

(c) if so, whether further efforts are being made to increase the quantum of assistance?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (c). At the India Consortium meeting held in Paris on July 3-4, 1980, the members of the Consortium pledged economic assistance of \$3.4 billion for the year 1980-81, subject to necessary approvals under their respective laws and regulations. This marked an increase of 2.3 per cent over the corresponding figure of \$3.3 billion for the previous year. Though the pledge for 1980-81 implied some reduction in real terms, it has to be viewed in the context of general aid climate and difficult economic situation in several countries.

To meet the worsening balance of payments situation discussions have already been concluded with the International Monetary Fund for drawal of assistance under the Trust Fund and the Compensatory Financing Facility. Steps have also been initiated for close monitoring of externally aided projects with a view to increasing the pace of drawal of external assistance during the year.

Memorandum from All India P and T and other Central Government Pensioners' Association

6440. SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) have Government received a memorandum from All India Posts and Telegraphs and other Central Government Pensioners' Association on the subject of stoppage of cut of 1/4th pension and thereby restoration of pension to 3/8 level—pre 1938 entrant old age pensioners;

(b) is it a fact that in the case of pre-1938 pensioners the Government, in giving Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity reduces pension from half their salary to 3/8 of their salary and whether it is a fact that in case of new pensioners, they are given gratuity without any reduction in their pension i. e. the pension is fixed at half their salary; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to remove this discrimination?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A lump sum payment in the form of death-cum-retirement gratuity was carved out by reducing the pension from 1/60 to 1/80 of average emoluments for each completed year of service, the maximum pension being reduced from 40/80 to 30/80 of emoluments. This was done as per recommendation of the First Pay Commission. Thus, the pattern of retirement benefits was changed, and an element of lump sum payment on retirement or death in service was introduced in addition to pension at the reduced rate. This revised pattern was applicable to all Central Government employees on pensionable establishment except those holding permanent posts on 30-9-1938 who were given an option.

Over the years, retirement benefits have been increased. The present rate of death-cum-retirement gratuity is half a month's pay for each com-