

and 5.37 crores as per the Expert Group estimates, approximately equivalent to 0.73 crore and 0.89 crore households, respectively. A number of programmes are being implemented in order to improve the quality of life of the poor households. These include programmes for raising incomes and generation employment, such as Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY). At the same time, minimum Needs Programme (MNP) is being implemented which covers components like elementary education, adult education, rural health, rural water supply, rural roads, rural electrification, rural housing, nutrition, rural domestic cooking energy, rural sanitation and public distribution system.

[English]

Charter of Demands by Ex-Servicemen

920. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ex-servicemen in the country have been submitting Charter of Demands to the Government from time to time;

(b) if so, the details of their main demands and the action taken so far on each of them; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to mitigate their grievances soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c): Ex-Servicemen and various organisations representing their interests have been submitting representation/memoranda projecting their problems/demands from time to time. Their demands relate mainly to the grant of pensionary benefits to those ex-Servicemen who are

not entitled to these benefits under the existing rules demands for one rank one pension, improvements in their existing pensionary benefits, assured employment after discharge from Defence services, and various welfare facilities which they feel should be extended to ex-Servicemen.

To review the difficulties faced by pre 1.1.1986 Armed Forces pensioners and evolve practical solutions a High Level Empowered Committee was set up by the Government. In acceptance of the recommendations of that Committee, orders were issued in March, 1992 granting 'One Time Increase' in the pension of those Armed Forces personnel who retired before 1.1.86. Subsequently, to consider anomalies arising out of the implementation of the orders issued in March, 1992 and to consider the claims of those categories of ex-Servicemen who were not covered by those orders, another Committee was constituted. This latter Committee has submitted its Report to the Govt. and the same is being processed. A decision on the recommendations of the Committee is likely to be taken shortly.

A Committee was also constituted to consider demands other than those relating to pensions. This Committee has also submitted its Report. The recommendations of this Committee too are being processed.

Resettlement and welfare of ex-Servicemen is a continuing process and their problems are sympathetically considered by the Government on an on going basis.

[Translation]

Spectacle Glasses Manufacturing Undertakings

921. DR. PARSHURAM GANGWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be