

1	2	3
5	Gurgaon	Haryana
6	Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh
7	Pondicherry	UT of Pondicherry
8	Surat	Gujarat
9	Tirupati	Andhra Pradesh
10	Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh

Commuted Pension

3863. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have not accepted the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission to restore the commuted pension after 12 years instead of 15 years;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to review this recommendation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The V Pay Commission on commutation of pensions recommended an increase in the commutation limit from 1/3rd to 40% and restoration of commuted pension after 12 years. The Government accepted enhancing the commutation limit but maintained status quo regarding restoration period as no decision had been taken on retirement age. With enhancement of retirement from 58 to 60 years, the Government would study the implications and take appropriate decision.

National Planning

3864. SHRI BASUDEV ACHARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether nation's planning has been failed to solve the problem of safe drinking water, elementary education, health, poverty eradication even after 50 years of independence;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to solve the problems on priority basis:

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) In the last fifty years, there has been considerable improvement in all the sectors, even though the spread of benefits has been constrained by a faster growing population. The incidence of rural poverty has declined from 56% in 1973-74 to 37 per cent in 1993-94 as per the official estimates of poverty. Near self sufficiency in food production has been achieved. The literacy rate has increased from 18.33% in 1950-51 to 52.2% in 1990-91. The Crude Death Rate (CDR) has declined from 25.1 in 1951 to 8.9 in 1996. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has declined from 146 in 1951 to 72 in 1996, life expectancy rose from 32 years in 1947 to 61.1 years in 1991-96. National programme for combating major public health problems were evolved and implemented.

(c) to (e) Poverty alleviation and improvement of basic amenities received special attention in Plans. In 1996, the Basic Minimum Services (BMS) programme was launched for attainment of certain objectives within a specified time frame in seven specified areas including safe drinking water and health services. During the current year, Planning Commission has prepared Special Action Plans (SAPs) to be given emphasis in the Ninth Five Year Plan in five areas viz. (i) Food and Agriculture; (ii) Physical Infrastructure; (iii) Health, Education, Housing and Drinking Water; (iv) Information Technology; and (v) Water Resources Policy. Well specified targets with fixed time frames have been laid down for these sectors.

Kuwait Returnees

3865. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of claims of people for handing over the belongings of deceased Indian nationals abroad are not handed over to the claimants in time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such claims are not settled even though the belongings have been sent to Consular Division of Ministry of External Affairs by our Embassies abroad; and

(d) the details of above claims in so far as the claims relate to the belongings sent from our Embassy in Kuwait for the year 1995 and onwards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Government is not aware of a large number of pending cases. The normal practice is for the belongings

of deceased Indian nationals abroad to be arranged to be despatched either alongwith the mortal remains of the deceased by the local sponsors or by the next of kin through a Power of Attorney. In cases where there is a dispute in identifying the legal heirs of the deceased, however, the despatch of the belongings may be delayed until the heirs have been identified through due legal process.

(c) and (d) The belongings of deceased Indian nationals abroad are not usually sent to the Ministry of External Affairs but directly to the next of kin/legal heirs as per the procedure outlined at (a) and (b). Since 1995, there have been only two cases where the belongings of the deceased were despatched to the Ministry of External Affairs, of which one apparently pertains to an Indian national Shri Totikonda Thothadri who had died in Kuwait in 1993.

Central Administrative Tribunal

3866. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN :

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI :

SHRI P. SANKARAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several posts of judges are lying vacant in various benches of CAT;

(b) if so, the details thereof, bench-wise alongwith the period of these vacancies;

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to fill up these posts;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the decisions/directions given by the CAT have not been complied with by the concerned departments; and

(e) if so, the reactions of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) The details of posts of Vice-Chairman and Members in the Central Administrative Tribunal lying vacant at present are indicated in the enclosed statement.

(c) The applications are invited to fill up vacancies in the posts of Vice-Chairman and Members normally on six monthly basis. Appointments are made in accordance with the procedure on the basis of the recommendations of a Selection Committee.

(d) and (e) No such information is maintained centrally. However, instructions already exist in terms of which the decisions/directions of the Central Administrative Tribunal are required to be complied with within the time limit prescribed in the order or within six months of the receipt of the order where no such time limit is indicated in the order.

Statement

Vacancy Position of Vice-Chairman and Members in the Central Administrative Tribunal as on 1-12-1998

S. No.	Name of the Bench	Vacancy position of Vice-Chairman and Members with date (in bracket)		
		Vice-Chairman	Administrative Member	Judicial Member
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Principal Bench	1(11.2.1998)	—	—
2.	Ahemdabad	—	—	1 (25.9.98)
3.	Allahabad	1(26.1.1998)	1 (17.5.1998)	—
4.	Lucknow	—	1 (27.3.1998)	—
5.	Mumbai	—	1 (20.5.1998)	1 (4.1.1998)
6.	Calcutta	—	1 (1.4.1998)	—
7.	Chandigarh	—	2 (20.1.1998 and 4.10.1998)	—
8.	Ernakulam	—	2 (10.7.1998 and 14.9.1998)	—