

person before taking office as a Union Minister has to disclose to the Prime Minister details of the assets and liabilities of himself and members of his family. After taking office, and so long as he remains in office, the Union Minister has to furnish annually by the 31st March to the Prime Minister a declaration regarding his assets and liabilities. It has not been the practice to disclose their details.

[Translation]

Pension for Widows, Handicapped and Old Age Persons

2769. SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM': Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that widows handicapped and old age persons are given pension in Delhi;

(b) if so, the amount of pension given to such persons every month and when it was introduced;

(c) whether the Government propose to enhance the amount of the pension in view of the increase in prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir. Delhi Administration provides Old Age Pension to destitutes who have attained the age of 60 years. This pension is also provided to the disabled persons with a relaxation of 5 years in the prescribed age limit.

(b) Pension was introduced in 1975. It was enhanced from Rs. 60/- p.m. to Rs. 100/- p.m. from 1st April, 1987. At present the pension is Rs. 100/- p.m.

(c) and (d). No, Sir.

Assistance to M.P. for the Development of Ambedkar Village

2770. SHRI BARELAL JATAV: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have provided any financial assistance to the Madhya Pradesh Government for the development of Ambedkar Villages;

(b) if so, the total amount sanctioned;

(c) whether Union Government issued directions to the Madhya Pradesh Government in regard to the development of Ambedkar Villages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation of Bengalis in Pilibhit District

2771. DR. PARSHURAM GANGWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to rehabilitate Bengalis who settled in Pilibhit district 40 years ago; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). All Bengali-speaking

old migrant families from former East Pakistan, who arrived in India immediately after partition and prior to 31.3.1958 and were settled in Pilibhit district have been given the admissible rehabilitation assistance years ago and they are now deemed to have merged with local population. There is no proposal under consideration to give them any further rehabilitation assistance.

[English]

Benefits of Handicapped Persons

2772. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether persons having physically disability on face, lips and nose with nasal defects (HARE-LIPS) are considered eligible to avail benefits admissible to physically handicapped ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b). The minimum degree of disability should be 40% in order to be eligible for any concessions /benefits.

Chief Minister's Conference during October, 1991

2773. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Chief Ministers was convened on October 4, 1991 in Delhi;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed in the Conference; and

(c) the outcome of the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir. A Conference of Chief Ministers' was held in New Delhi on October 4-5, 1991.

(b) The following five subjects were on the Agenda of the Conference:-

(1) Prevention of atrocities on Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

(2) Working of the Public Distribution System.

(3) Maintenance of land records.

(4) Working of cooperatives.

(5) Mounting expenditure of the Government.

However, due to paucity of time, items at S.No. 1, 2 and 5 above could be discussed.

(c) In regard to the item relating to the prevention of atrocities on Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes the Conference agreed that this was a national question and to be considered on the basis of national consensus and that the Chief Ministers would be in direct touch with this matter on a continuing basis in order to take effective and timely action. The Conference also made suggestions about filling important positions by the officers belonging to Scheduled Castes/Schedule Tribes and filling quotas of appointment to the posts reserved for them.

In respect of other two items, there was exchange of views on how to improve the working of the public distribution system and how to curb the mounting expenditure of the Government on the Non-Plan side, and it was *inter alia*, agreed that a new revamped public distribution system in certain identified