

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3129
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2003
SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING DUES
AJIT KUMAR PANJA

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more than 6600 pensioners of Calcutta Dock Labour Board are awaiting the full and final settlement of their pension and other post retirement benefits including gratuity, P.F. etc.;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard indicating the date from which the payment of pension and other benefits are outstanding;
- (c) whether due to non-settlement of the dues large number of retired persons have either died of starvation or now living in penury;
- (d) if so, whether the Government have received representations from the Calcutta Dock Labour Board Pensioners' Association highlighting the problems faced by the retired persons;
- (e) if so, the reasons for non-settlement of pension etc.; and
- (f) the remedial measures contemplated by the Government for expeditious settlement of outstanding dues?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI)

- (a)&(b) Yes, Sir. Pensionary benefits are in arrears with effect from 1.11.1997 to 31.12.1999 for 538 widow ex-gratia pensioners and with effect from 1.1.1998 for remaining pensioners. The total arrear payment on account of pension would be Rs. 43.41 crores. In addition, encashment of leave for Rs. 2.31 crores and dues against Gratuity at enhanced rates for Rs. 2.15 crores are yet to be paid to the retirees due to financial crunch being faced by the Calcutta Dock Labour Board (CDLB). The current pension payment to the existing pensioners from the month of April, 2003 onwards also could not be effected due to the same reason.
- (c) CDLB has not reported any retired person dying of starvation. However, due to non-payment of pension/arrears may have resulted in financial hardship to the pensioners.
- (d) Yes, Sir.
- (e) It has not been possible to pay pension etc. regularly because of grim financial situation being faced by the CDLB.
- (f) For payment of arrear pensionary benefits a proposal for providing financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 43 crores is under consideration of the Government in consultation with the concerned Ministries/ Departments.