

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2034

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2000

LOWERING THE RETIREMENT AGE OF EMPLOYEES IN FCI

JAYASHREE BANERJEE;SAMUDRALA VENUGOPAL CHARY;SUBODH MOHITE;SUKENDER REDDY GUTHA

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to lower the retirement age for employees in the Food Corporation of India to 45 years from 60 years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for lowering down the retirement age;
- (c) whether any Committee has been set up in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;
- (e) whether the Workers Union of FCI has been consulted in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details of views expressed by them?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a) & (b) : While considering the issue of organisational restructuring of the Food Corporation of India with specific reference to manpower management, Government has directed the Corporation to examine the matter regarding the age of retirement for its workers as per the Standing Orders, issued by the Ministry of Labour in this regard and discuss it with the workers Unions thereafter. Government is of the view that it would be in the overall interest of the Workers as well as the Corporation if the retirement age of the workers could be brought down to around 45 years keeping in view the hazardous nature of work the workers are to perform.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) & (f) : The FCI is yet to examine the matter. It has been instructed to examine the issue of reduction in age of labour separately and, thereafter, to discuss with the Unions. The FCI Workers Union in its representation of 27.6.2000 has inter-alia, suggested that the FCI management, instead of adopting the measure of reducing the age of retirement to 45 years from 60 years should concentrate in taking corrective steps like semi mechanisation of the work by installing fork-lift etc., and by reducing the work load norms for handling of bags by a worker per day in keeping with the human capacity to reduce the hazards of the work.