

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:462
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2000
PENSION TO WIDOWS OF PRE-1950
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3350 dated March 16, 2000 and state:

- (a) whether the widows who were getting military pensions prior to 1950 have not been given their due enhanced pensions and arrears so far;
- (b) whether a number of representations have also been made by those widows whose husbands passed away in service prior to 1950;
- (c) if so, the reasons for delay in granting their pensions; and
- (d) the steps being taken to streamline the system for efficient redressal of such grievances?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 462 FOR 27.4.2000.

The Vth Central Pay Commission (CPC) recommendations, as accepted by the Government do not provide for any separate category of the pre-1950 family pensioners. The reference points as enunciated by the Vth CPC pertain to post - 1.1.1996, pre - 1.1.1996 and pre - 1.1.1986 categories of pensioners. All pre - 1.1.1986 family pensioners form a single category for the purpose of revision of family pension.

2. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Vth CPC pension of Defence pensioners was revised in two stages. In the first stage, Government orders were issued on 24.11.1997 authorising Pension Disbursing Agencies (PDA) viz. Branches of Public Sector Banks, Defence Pension Disbursing Offices and Treasuries to consolidate the family pension and pay the arrears and pension on revised rates with effect from 1.1.1996 to family pensioners directly without any authorisation from Pension Sanctioning Authorities. The family pension so revised was paid as an interim measure to provide immediate relief to pensioners. As per available information arrears pertaining to such consolidation have already been credited in favour of all pre - 1.1.1996 family pensioners. No complaint in this regard is pending with Government.

3. In the second phase, further orders were issued on 27.5.1998 for revision of pension/family pension for Commissioned Officers and on 14.7.1998 in respect of Personnel Below Officer's Rank (PBOR) pensioners, who retired/died before 1.1.1986.

4. The revised pension/family pension payment orders in respect of Commissioned Officers are issued by the Pension Sanctioning Authority, i.e. Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (Pensions). All pre-1950 cases relating to family pension of widows of Commissioned Officers have been settled by Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (Pensions) by issuance of corrigendum Pension Payment Order in each case. As per available information no representation is pending in this regard.

5. The work of revision of pension for PBOR has been entrusted to PDAs with reference to pension tables annexed with the Government orders of 14.7.1998 revising pension. With the acceptance of the concept of modified parity, family pension for PBOR has also been made table-based and PDAs have been authorised to revise the family pension of all pre-1986 family pensioners of PBOR.

6. The above approach was adopted for expeditious revision of family pension of Defence pensioners. As and when any case for non-revision/delay in revision of family pension is brought to the notice of the Government, the matter is taken up with the concerned PDA to ensure payment of revised pension to the pensioners.

7. Continuous monitoring is being done at Ministry of Defence and Controller General of Defence Accounts. Principal Controller of Defence Accounts, Allahabad and nodal officers of Pension Disbursing Agencies are required to submit weekly progress report in this regard to the Ministry.