

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:138
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2004
ARMY WELFARE FUND
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount donated by the people of the country for the `Army Welfare Fund`;
- (b) the details of the financial assistance provided to the dependents of the Kargil martyrs out of the donated amount;
- (c) whether any other scheme has been formulated under the `Army Welfare Fund` so that financial assistance could be provided to the dependents of martyrs in future; and
- (d) if so, details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) An amount of Rs. 261.23 crores was received in the Army Central Welfare Fund through public donations during the Kargil Operation.

(b) The following financial assistance was provided to the dependents of Kargil martyrs from the Army Central Welfare Fund and the National Defence Fund in addition to their normal entitlement:

- (i) Assistance for dwelling unit - Rs. 5 lakhs.
- (ii) Assistance to the parents - Rs. 2 lakhs.
- (iii) Children`s education assistance - Rs. 2 lakhs (maximum upto two children)
- (iv) Immediate relief - Rs. 30,000/-

In addition, an ex-gratia of Rs. 10 lakhs was paid by the Government to the next of kin of Kargil martyrs.

(c) & (d) Following schemes are available under Army Central Welfare Fund for providing financial assistance to the dependents of battle casualties in future:

- (i) Rs. one lakh each to all medically boarded out disabled battle casualties;
- (ii) Rs. 30,000/- grant to each of all fatal casualties;
- (iii) Rs. 10,000/- to 30,000/- each to all disabled soldiers retained in service depending upon percentage of disability;
- (iv) Upto a maximum of Rs. 50,000/- for mobility equipment/artificial limbs for disabled battle casualties;
- (v) Upto a maximum of Rs. 30,000/- for daughter`s marriage;

(vi) Upto a maximum of Rs. 25,000/- for modification of bathrooms for handicapped soldiers;

(vii) Distress grants to old war widows, their dependents and war veterans living in penury;

(viii) Demise grant to widows/next of kin of deceased soldiers who die after retirement/invalided out of service.