

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2827
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2009
DEMANDS OF RETIRED SEAMEN
Semmalai Shri S.

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount is being paid to retired seamen as monthly ex-gratia;
- (b) whether such seamen who served in the Indian Merchant Navy have requested the Government to enhance the said monthly ex-gratia;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;and
- (d) the time by which it is likely to be enhanced?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

- (a): A Monthly Ex-gratia Monetary Assistance (MEMA) of Rs.200/- is being paid to foreign going registered seamen who have retired/incapacitated on or after 01.01.1975.
- (b) & (c): Yes, Madam. Several representations for enhancement of monthly exgratia payment have been received from the retired seamen who served in the Indian Merchant Navy. However, it has not been possible to enhance the same due to depleting corpus.
- (d): The scheme is operational since 01.01.1978, the quantum of assistance has been periodically increased from Rs.75/- p.m. in 1978 to Rs.200/- p.m. The expenditure is met out of interest/income generated from corpus funds allocated for the scheme. At present income generated is insufficient for maintaining the scheme due to disproportionate increase in number of beneficiaries (1700 in 1978 and 20,000 at present). A part of the main corpus fund is being utilized now to manage the expenditure on the scheme. The corpus will be completely utilized within 3-4 years. So, the demand for increase in assistance could not be agreed so far.