

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2608
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2014
EXTRA DEPARTMENTAL POSTAL EMPLOYEES
Premachandran Shri N.K.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Extra Departmental Postal Employees of the Department of Posts have demanded for grant of pension to them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to sanction pension for the said employees;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The All India Postal Employees Union (Gramin Dak Sevaks) has demanded a minimum statutory monthly pension of Rs. 3500/- to the Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS) and grant of all other retirement benefits like gratuity, etc, based on the same system as applicable to the departmental employees.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) The Gramin Dak Sevak employees around, 2,63,000 in number, form a distinct category of employees in the Department of Posts. They do not form part of regular civil service and are not covered by CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972. They are employed by the Government for only 3-5 hours per day. Being a distinct and separate category, they are conferred such benefits as are specifically approved for them by the Cabinet. They are allowed ex-gratia gratuity and severance amount on discharge/death. The Government has already introduced a Service Discharge Benefit Scheme effective from 01.04.2011 for the Gramin Dak Sevaks devised on the basis of the New Pension Scheme (NPS)-Lite scheme launched by the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA). This Scheme has been offered in lieu of the existing Severance Amount Scheme on an optional basis for the existing Gramin Dak Sevaks while it is mandatory for the new Gramin Dak Sevaks engaged with effect from 01.01.2011. The contributions deposited on monthly basis grow constantly through investments in different schemes/securities through the Pension Fund Managers (PFM) appointed by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). A percentage of the accumulation is paid on discharge/ death, while for another part of the accumulation; they purchase annuity from approved annuity providers, selected by the Government. Against this investment, the Ex- Gramin Dak Sevak and his/her spouse is provided to get monthly pension for their life.

(e) The Government has no proposal to grant any other pensionary benefit to them.