

**Pensioners**

1135. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA:  
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government feel that there is any discrimination between pre January 1, 1996 pensioners and January to September 1996 pensioners as in their pensions (basic) is concerned; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) (a) and (b) In accordance with the provisions contained in Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 for the purpose of computation of pension, emoluments drawn by a Government servant during the last 10 months of his service are taken into account. Accordingly in the case of Government employees who retired within 10 months from the date of introduction of new scales of pay i.e. 1.1.96, emoluments drawn in the pre-revised scales of pay for the period prior to 1.1.96 and pay in the revised scales for the remaining period have been taken into account. In the case of Government servants retiring within 10 months from the date of introduction of new pay scales, in addition to basic pay, dearness allowance as well as IR(I) and IR(II) drawn during the period prior to 1.1.96 have also been treated as emoluments for the purpose of computation of pension. However, the revised pension sanctioned to post-1996 pensioners after the introduction of the new pay scales is in no case less than the original basic pension sanctioned to them based on the pre-revised scales. In some cases the pension so fixed has resulted in less pension than their counterparts who retired by pre-1996. However, those employees who have retired or will be retiring between 1.1.96 and 31.12.97 have an option to retain the pre-revised scales of pay and have their pension and death-cum retirement gratuity calculated under the rules in force immediately before coming into the effect of these orders. The pension and death-cum-retirement gratuity in such cases will be regulated in accordance with the orders in force prior to 1.1.96.

The post -1996 retirees also receive 40% instead of 33% of commutation amount, enhanced gratuity upto Rs 3.5 lakhs based on the last pay drawn and Dearness Allowance admissible thereon and 300 days leave encashment in the new scale as against 240 days in the old scale by pre-96 retirees. Hence full terminal benefit received by pre-96 and post 96 retirees cannot be compared.

**Compensation to Victims of Mina Fire**

1136. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :  
SHRI E. AHAMED :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have announced compensation to the next of kins of those Hajis who died in Mina fire tragedy in Saudi Arabia in 1997 and those sustained injuries thereof ;

(b) if so, the amount paid in each category ;

(c) whether compensations have not yet been remitted so far; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Immediately after the Mina fire tragedy during Haj 97, Prime Minister had announced a package of relief measures which consisted of :

- (i) ex-gratia payment of rupees one lakh to the next of kin of the pilgrims killed in the fire ;
- (ii) ex-gratia payment of rupees one lakh to those who were permanently disabled; and
- (iii) ex-gratia payment of rupees ten thousand to those who had been injured in the fire.

2. The Ministry of External Affairs received 114 claims from the next of kins of the deceased pilgrims. It has already sent cheques of rupees one lakh each in respect of 24 claimants to the District Magistrates concerned. Again, 33 claims have been processed recently and passed for payment, the cheques are under preparation.

3. Cheques in respect of 2 claims received from permanently disabled pilgrims are under preparation.

4. Out of a total 424 injured pilgrims, payments of Rs. 10,000 each have already been made in respect of 181 pilgrims. For the remaining injured pilgrims, Consulate General of India, Jeddah has been authorised to make the payments, which will be completed shortly.

5. The delay in setting the dues of the remaining 57 claims from next of kin of deceased pilgrims has been on account of difficulties being faced by the claimants in obtaining Succession Certificates from the Law Courts. Following suggestions from the members of state Haj Committees, Government relaxed this requirement and has