

look and I will certainly give an opportunity to discuss it with the Chief Ministers of various States.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that West Bengal is the only State among the States in the country at the moment, which concentrates more on the non-plan expenditure and avoid plan expenditure and thereby every year some part of the plan allocations go back to Delhi to be refunded, without being utilised for the benefit of the people. As such the growth of the State has gone down and it has become bankrupt.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please don't interrupt.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI : The overdrafts are converted into loans and that is being spent through non-plan expenditure for political purposes. I therefore request the Minister to take appropriate steps not to provide any sanction for non-plan expenditure without proper investigation before the planned growth is achieved by the Plan Expenditure by the Government of West Bengal.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am allowing you a supplementary, but not before the other supplementaries. It takes time. Why do you shout like that? Are you so much hurt? It is not the proper manner to interrupt him. This is his point of view. You make out yours. It does not matter.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I very much agree with the essence of what the hon. member has behind his question. There is certainly need for discipline in States and particularly those States which are in huge overdraft.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : Some publicity should be given to this particular aspect so that the people of West Bengal who voted for us should understand the question. We should redefine these Plan and Non-Plan expenditures. The overdraft of West Bengal was Rs. 219 crores. The Eighth Finance Commission recommended Rs. 320 crores for West Bengal, which in my view is very judicial. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Finance Ministry is going to give Rs. 320 crores to West Bengal so that they can pay back the overdraft to the exchequer. Are you going to do that?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : That is not our intention.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : Why?...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I have given the answer. But the benefit that is to flow from the Report of the Finance Commission, will certainly flow to the West Bengal Government also.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : It is very easy...

MR. SPEAKER : But I don't think there is time. The Question Hour is over. Let us see next time.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Equipping of Pak Air Force with U.S. manufactured E-2C Howkeye Early Warning and Control Planes

*4. **SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has equipped its airforce with U.S. manufactured E-2C Howkeye early warning and control planes ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard and also in view of the fact that Pakistan has already equipped itself with F-16s which can hit any part of India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE
(SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) :

(a) and (b). Government has seen reports appearing in a section of the press in this regard.

(c) Government carefully monitors all developments having a bearing on the security of the country and takes effective steps to ensure full defence preparedness at all times.

[*Translation*]

**Disparities in Pension and other
Facilities Available to Various
Categories of Ex-Serviceman**

*5. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken by Government to remove the wide ranging disparities in pension and other facilities available to various categories of ex-servicemen ;

(b) whether his Ministry has since received the recommendations of the Committee constituted in this regard ;

(c) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee ; and

(d) if not, the time by which these are likely to be received ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE
(SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) The pensionary entitlement of all Government servants, both civilian and Defence, is determined as per rules applicable at the time of retirement. There is no disparity in the application of pension formula to the various categories of ex-servicemen. However, there is bound to be disparity

in the amount of pension actually drawn by persons retiring at different points of time although they retire from the Military service with the same rank. This is because of the fact that pension amount is related to the reckonable emoluments, the number of years of qualifying service put in by the Government servant and the prevailing conditions of service at the time of retirement.

Government are aware of the hardship experienced by the pensioners and have taken various steps from time to time to provide relief within the available resources. The important steps taken with respect to the pension of ex-servicemen are listed in the attached statement.

Regarding other facilities available to various categories of ex-servicemen, there are no wide ranging disparities.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) & (d). The main recommendations of the High Level Committee are the following :—

(i) The legislation of enactments by both the Centre and the States to give statutory backing to some of the welfare measures.

(ii) The constitution of a Parliamentary Committee consisting of members from both Houses to oversee the implementation of various schemes and facilities for ex-servicemen.

(iii) The incorporation of ex-servicemen's welfare and programmes connected therewith, in the Seventh Five Year Plan with a recommended outlay of Rs. 350 crores to be shared by the Centre and the States.

(iv) The establishment of State Financial Corporations and the Central Industrial Development Corporation for ex-servicemen from within the recommended outlay.