

(c) the reasons for which the pensioners had been deprived of the amount sanctioned by Government for such a long time keeping in view the rise in prices; and

(d) the date by which the Accountant General will issue the orders and the time by which the pensioners will get that amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAT-TABHAI RAMA RAO): (a) to (d). Government of Madhya Pradesh issued orders for grant of relief on pension to State Government pensioners for the first time in May 1975. These orders were not automatically applicable to the pensioners of the Madhya Pradesh Board of Secondary Education, which is an autonomous body. Accountant General, Madhya Pradesh, therefore, sought clarification from the State Government whether the relief may be paid to the pensioners of the Board and capitalised value thereof recovered from the Board. The Government were informed that pending the receipt of their specific orders, no relief was being paid to the pensioners of the Board. After repeated reminders, the State Government conveyed their decision in April, 1981 to grant relief on pension to pensioners of the Board subject to the recovery of the capitalised value of relief from the Board. Thereafter, the question of concurrence of the Board to the payment of capitalised value and the manner of determining such value remained under correspondence with the State Government and the Board. In October, 1982, the Board conveyed its decision to grant relief to its pensioners at the same rates as admissible to the State Government pensioners and also paid the capitalized value for the first instalment of relief granted in May 1975. However, in order to obviate hardship to the pensioners, the Accountant General, Madhya Pradesh, released all the 15 instalments of relief to the Board's pensioners, without waiting for the recovery of the capitalised value of the remaining 14 instalments of relief. Necessary instructions were issued to the Treasury Officers in Madhya Pradesh on 1st February, 1983.

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Vacancies in LIC Board of Directors

*91. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are five vacancies including the post of Chairman in the Life Insurance Corporation Board of Directors;

(b) if so, how long have the vacancies remained unfilled and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether these vacancies have affected the administrative work of the Life Insurance Corporation; and

(d) when the vacancies are expected to be filled up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAN-ARDHANA POOJARY): (a), (b) and (d). The Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 (Section 4) provides that the Corporation shall consist of such number of persons not exceeding 16 as the Central Government may think fit to appoint thereto and one of them shall be appointed by the Central Government to be the Chairman. The Act thus provides for the maximum number of persons who can be members of the Board but it does not specify my minimum number.

(c) The work of the Corporation has not been affected by the number of members on the Board of the Corporation.

Export of Iron Ore, Mica and other Minerals

*92. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to tap non-traditional markets to increase the export of iron ore, mica and other minerals;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been prepared by his Ministry; and