

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central Government and the State Governments have their own Schemes for grant of pension to freedom fighters. The freedom fighters who are getting pension from the State Governments may not necessarily be eligible for grant of pension under the Central Government's Scheme as the eligibility criteria for grant of pension under the Central Scheme may differ from those under the State Schemes.

Increase in Financial Aid to & J&K Migrants

1215. SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the amount of financial aid being given to the displaced families from Jammu and Kashmir from Rupees 500 to Rupees 1000;

(b) if so, by what time; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c). Eligible migrants from Kashmir Valley in Jammu are already being given monthly financial assistance to a maximum of Rs. 1,000/- per family.

Eligible J&K migrants registered with Delhi Administration are being given a monthly cash assistance to a maximum of

Rs. 500 per family. Those staying in Delhi Administration camps are also being given free ration amounting to a little over Rs. 500 per month and a one time kitchen kit. The Government is actively considering a suitable increase in the monthly cash assistance.

Panchayati Raj Bill

1216. PROF. YADUNATH PANDEY:
SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:
SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTA:
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the recently concluded Chief Ministers' Conference, Government agreed to introduce Panchayati Raj Bill in the Parliament at the earliest;

(b) if so, the time by which the Panchayati Raj Bill is proposed to be brought before the Parliament; and

(c) the main features of the Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) and (b). A Constitution Amendment Bill seeking to revitalise Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country is likely to be introduced in the Parliament during current Session.

(c) The Bill includes provisions for a uniform Five Year term for Panchayati Raj Institutions, holding elections within six months in the event of supersession, ensuring adequate representation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women and developing adequate functional and financial powers to these institutions.