

and pensions, especially in the Department of Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare;

(b) whether any such letter relates to non-payment of dues that can be paid to the widow of a government servant who dies in harness;

(c) whether any instructions have been issued to pay dues in such cases to the widow; and

(d) if not, by when the relevant instructions/clarifications would be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) 121 (One hundred and twenty one) letters were received from the Members of Parliament during the period from 1.4.97 to 30.4.98 of which 42 letters are pending as on 30.4.98.

(b) No Sir. However 7 (seven) letters relate to payment of family pension to the widows of employees of Public Sector Undertakings and autonomous bodies have been received and referred to the concerned Ministries for necessary action.

(c) and (d) The matter has been taken up with the concerned Ministry and it is for the concerned Ministry to take necessary action as per the existing rules.

**Rules regarding dismissal from service and withholding retirement benefits**

219. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether dismissal from service and withholding of retirement benefits for unauthorised absence from duty constitute two punishments for one wrong in the light of the Supreme Court's ruling in Mahanga Singh case of 1992;

(b) if so, the rules in this regard; and

(c) the remedies available to the aggrieved person?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Dismissal from service is a penalty prescribed under the disciplinary rules. Withholding retirement benefits on dismissal is merely a consequential result thereof as the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 provide that dismissal or removal of a Government servant from a service or post entails forfeiture of his past service.

**Raising of retirement age of Central Government Employees**

220. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering raising retirement age of Central government employees to 60 years from 58 years at present;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons for the proposed change and the present status of the deliberations;

(c) whether State Governments have been consulted on the issue; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments 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 R. JANARTHANAM): (a) and (b) The age of retirement for civilian Central Government employees has been raised by two years except for those already retiring at 60 years. Similarly, the age of retirement in the Armed Forces and the Central Para Military Forces is also being raised by two years.

(c) and (d) The age of retirement for State Government employees is the concern of the respective State Governments. Each State Government has to