

Committee of Secretaries. The Committee has finalised the proposal for a revised Voluntary Retirement Scheme for surplus employees which include payment of certain ex-gratia amount, in addition to normal pensionary benefits, to such surplus employees who opt for voluntary retirement. Further action, in this, has been initiated.

Pay scale of government employees in personal staff of ministers

2707. SHRI MOHD. AZAM KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals have been received from some Members of Parliament requesting for granting the option to the Government employees appointed in the personal staff of Ministers equivalent for the pay scale of the post against which they work;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) by when the benefit of the pay scales of the posts of personal staff would be given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Personnel and Training received proposals from Members of Parliament for grant of option to the Central Government officers holding posts at lower levels in the Central Government and appointed to higher posts on deputation as personal staff of Ministers, to opt for the pay scale of the higher post. When the representations were received, Government took a conscious decision not to allow higher scales of pay of the post held on deputation in order to avoid unnecessary administrative problems. If such benefit is allowed, it might be possible that a person holding a lower ministerial post may become entitled to scale of a higher post to which he is otherwise not cleared for appointment. Accordingly, the need to change the existing provisions is not considered desirable.

(d) Question does not arise.

Recognition of all India association for SC/ST and physically handicapped people's upliftment

2708. SHRI SHYAM LAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped People's Upliftment has approached the Department of Personnel and Training directly and through VIPs for its recognition;

- (b) if so, the details of action taken thereon;
- (c) if no, action has been taken so far, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) by when this association would be recognized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) Though a number of representations continue to be received, as per extant policy, service associations formed exclusively by SC/ST employees or any other group of such employees where the membership is not open to all Central Government employees other than those belonging to these groups, are not considered for recognition in the interest of unified Civil Service.

Inclusion of New Subjects in Civil Services Examinations

2709. MISS FRIDA TOPNO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government would consider including Operational Research/ Applied Operational Research and Information Technology as one of the optional subjects in UPSC Civil Services Examinations so that the candidates of these subjects get an opportunity to appear in these examinations;

- (b) if so, by when; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No proposal has been received by the Government from the Union Public Service Commission to include new subjects like Operational Research/ Applied Operational Research and Information Technology as one of the optional subjects in Civil Services Examinations.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Financial Assistance to States

2710. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the additional financial assistance demanded by the State Governments during each of the last two years;
- (b) the amount allocated by Government, year-wise and plan -wise during the above period;