

It will be seen from the above that formula of Central Assistance tries to reduce the regional imbalances in availability of resources. This is also reflected by the percentage of Central Assistance to plan outlay in respect of the States for the year 1987-88, as is given in the Annexure. (See Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 88].

(d) At present, no review proposal is under consideration.

Revision of the Gadgil formula

2390. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revise the Gadgil formula in view of the inequitous impact of the 'Tax effort' criterion and population criterion for Central assistance to the State Plans;

(b) whether it is a fact that the poor States are penalised on account of their low tax-income ratio, and whether this considerably neutralises the progressivity of the formula; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that by adopting 1971 population base, less developed States are paid less assistance for their lower level of social and economic development, resulting from their weaker resources position and what is the way out of this vicious circle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) No proposal is under consideration at present to revise the Modified Gadgil Formula as approved by the N.D.C.

(b) The distribution of Central assistance under the Modified Gadgil Formula is determined on the basis of population (60%), tax effort (10%), per capita income below the national average (20%) and special problems (10%). Taking an integrated view,

the formula is weighted in favour of the less developed States.

(c) In terms of the Government of India's Policy on Family Welfare Programme, 1971 population has been adopted in the case of all the States for determining the allocation under 'population' factor. By adopting 1971 population base, in general the States having per capita income below the national average have got relatively larger share than that if it had been computed on the basis of 1981 population.

17th December as Pensioners' day

2391. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what decisions have been taken for the welfare of the pensioners;

(b) whether standing Committee of voluntary agencies is being proposed to be reorganised; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to observe the 17th December as Pensioners' day every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) A statement is annexed (See below).

(b) The Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies was reconstituted on 10-2-1988.

(c) No, Sir.

Statement

Measures for welfare of pensioners

1. A separate Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare was set up in March, 1985 to provide the necessary focal point to deal with pension policy and pensioners' grievances.

2. A Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies for the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare comprising representatives of pensioners associations was set-up in July, 1986, (a) to provide a feed-back on programme implementation (b) to discuss and critically examine new policy initiatives and (c) to mobilise voluntary effort to supplement Government action. The SCOVA was reconstituted in February, 1988.

3. The pension structure both for present as well as future pensioners was subjected to an in-depth examination by the Fourth Central Pay Commission. As a result of its recommendations, some of which were further improved upon by the Government, substantial improvement has been made in the retirement benefits w.e.f. 1-1-1986.

4. Family Pension Scheme, 1964 has been extended from September, 1977 to the families of all Central Government employees who were on pensionable establishment but were either not covered by the 1964 Scheme or had opted out of it. Families of temporary/quasi-permanent employees who retired after 10 years or more service on superannuation/invalidation are also now eligible for this benefit.

5. Period for sanctioning family pension and settlement of other dues in cases where Government servants disappear suddenly has been reduced from seven years to one year.

6. Benefit of minimum pension/Family pension of Rs. 375 p.m. has been extended to pensioners/family pensioners (a) who had migrated to India after partition, (b) ex-Burma pensioners (c) ex-Pondicherry (French) pensioners and (d) ex-Goa (Portuguese) pensioners.

7. The GPF/CPF nominations made by a Government employee before acquiring a family would not become automatically ineffective on

his/her acquiring a family, unless changed by a positive act in writing.

8. Heads of Departments/Office have been made accountable to ensure that Pension Payment and Gratuity Orders are issued on the day of retirement.

9. CGHS facilities have been extended to all eligible pensioners in any dispensary of their choice irrespective of the place of their actual residence. They will also be given temporary facilities for treatment in the CGHS dispensaries in other places which they happen to visit for short periods.

10. Central Government Hospitals in Delhi have been advised to have separate queues for people over 60 years on the pattern obtaining in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi.

11. The six Banks nationalised in 1980 (*viz.* Andhra Bank, Corporation Bank, New Bank of India, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Punjab & Sind Bank, Vijaya Bank) have also been enlisted for pension disbursement work for providing additional points.

12. Procedures for transmission of the Pension Payment Order in respect of Defence and Railway pensioners has been simplified by removing bottlenecks leading to delays.

13. The limit for remittance of pension by postal money order at Government cost has been raised to Rs. 500 excluding dearness relief.

14. Cheque book facility has been extended to pensioners receiving pension through Public Sector Banks.

15. Nomination facilities for receiving the life-time arrears of pensioners have been introduced.

16. 1/2 per cent interest higher than that available to the general public has been made admissible to pensioners on their fixed deposits with the public sector.

17. An innovative scheme of Pension Adalats with the objective of bringing the administration and the pensioners together to settle their individual grievances on-the-spot within the framework of rules and regulations was started in the Railways in August, 1986. The Scheme has been adopted by Ministry of Defence, Department of telecommunications and Department of Posts.

Eight-Point Strategy for Improvement in Agricultural Production

2392. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission proposes to formulate an eight point strategy for improvement in agricultural production;

(b) whether it is a fact that the present allocations made for agriculture are inadequate; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to make sufficient allocation to boost the agricultural production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) A task Force constituted under Member, in-charge Agriculture, Planning Commission has prepared a Framework Action Plan to achieve a foodgrains production level of atleast 175 million tonnes by the terminal year of the Seventh Five Year Plan. The following eight guidelines have been kept in mind while preparing the Action Plan:—

1. Fixing zonal and regional targets,

2. Identifying problems relating to each region/zone,

3. Evaluation of inputs required for each region/zone,

4. Science and technology support required to cut costs and raise productivity.

5. Assessment of problems in respect of implementation with a view to overcoming the same.

6. Monitoring,

7. High level evaluation, and

8. An efficient feed back,

(b) and (c) No, Sir. While the provision of funds for the thrust programmes have been adequately made, marginal increase in key items like irrigation, inputs and credit have been recommended in the Framework Action Plan to boost the foodgrains production in the country in 1988-89.

हिन्दी भाषा का प्रसार

2393. श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि "क" और "ख" क्षेत्रों में राजभाषा अधिनियम की पूर्णतः अवहेलना करते हुए, रोमन लिपि के कम्प्यूटरों, टैलेक्स मशीनों और टेलीप्रिंटरों जैसे दर्जनों आधुनिक यंत्रों के आगमन और अबाधित प्रयोग के फलस्वरूप हिन्दी के प्रसार का कार्य वर्षों पीछे पड़ गया है और जहाँ भी टैलेक्स मशीनें लगायी गई हैं वहाँ से एक भी तार हिन्दी में नहीं भेजा गया है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि "क" क्षेत्रों में अंग्रेजी के टंकण यंत्रों आदि की तुलना में देवनागरी के टंकण यंत्रों, टंककों और आशुलिपिकों की संख्या नहीं के बराबर है जबकि उनकी संख्या 50:50 होनी चाहिए थी; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं और हिन्दी भाषा के प्रसार के लिए क्या नए कदम उठाए गये हैं?