

these are kept ready, and when the question was asked we did it quickly. As you know, we have to answer 15 days before the question comes and, in fact, we get three days. After we get the notice, we get three days, compile it and answer it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a good Minister. Otherwise I would have said, I am collecting the information and will be placing it on the Table of the House.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the honourable Minister has kindly given a detailed account of the compilation of the lines and the time devoted by AIR to political parties. I would like to know whether there are any specific guidelines to check the newsworthiness of what the opposition political parties and other parties, before it goes into the bulletins. It is not a question of time. I would like to know whether there are any specific guidelines in this matter.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Yes, Sir. We cannot lay down some do's and don'ts but we have 18 guidelines written down and those guidelines are followed.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, my question is very simple and small. In this reply some information about different political parties and the ruling party has been given. Now I would like to know how much time during 1985-86, particularly the total percentage of time of AIR and Doordarshan, has been consumed only for the projection of the Prime Minister.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: What is this question?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: That record separately is not kept. Of course, Sir, one of the guidelines is, when the Prime Minister makes a statement, it is a policy matter for the whole nation, and we give time.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Since the question about the Prime Minister has been asked, whose every announcement is of great relevance to the nation and lays down national policies, I want to know how much time has been given to non-Congress Chief Ministers and how much time to Congress Chief Ministers because

my impression is that the AIR and the Doordarshan are discriminating against Congress Chief Ministers.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, no such complaints has yet been received.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: I want to know the figures.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, according to the statement, Opposition parties are getting more time and coverage...

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Three times.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: ... both on the radio and the television. You will agree with me that this is not very fair. I would like to know what the hon. Minister proposes to do to allot some more time to the ruling Congress Party.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, the suggestion is well noted.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Sir, if I may take it up from the point that Atal Bihariji has made, perhaps, with his co-operation we can divide the time in the proportion of the representation in the House.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know how much time is given between national and international news and how much between political and apolitical news.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: It is a separate question, Sir.

Freedom Fighters from Orissa getting Pension

*452. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of freedom fighters from Orissa who had applied for pension under the Swatantrata Senani Samman Scheme during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases sanctioned and rejected, respectively; and

(c) the number of widows of freedom fighters from Orissa to whom pensions have been granted during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) to (c) Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The last date prescribed for receipt of applications under the Samman Pension Scheme was 31-3-1982. Applications received thereafter were treated as time-barred. However, if in a case, evidence from official records i.e. Jail Certificate, Warrant of Arrest, Government orders etc. are produced, delay in such cases can be condoned and the applicant considered for grant of pension following the prescribed procedure. A total number of 776 applications were received from Orissa, after the due date. Only in a few cases, such evidence has been furnished. State Government's recommendations in these cases have, however, not been received except in one case. Pension in this recommended case has since been sanctioned. The other cases where evidence from official records is forthcoming will be examined on receipt of State Government's recommendation and after condoning the delay.

As regards grant of pension to the widows of freedom fighters, no separate record as to the number of widows who were sanctioned dependent pension, was maintained previously. However, every effort was made by the Government to ensure that the requests from widows for transfer of pension were attended to on priority basis. The grant of family pension has already been made automatic from September, 1983 onwards by incorporating the name of the dependent in the sanction letter. As regards pensions sanctioned before September, 1983, the freedom fighters have been advised through the Press, Accountants General and the State Governments more than once to file their nominations with the Accountant General. In cases where the freedom fighters could not, for any reasons, file their nominations to the Ac-

countants General and direct requests are made by the widows to the Ministry for transfer of pensions in their names, expeditious action has been taken in such cases. Record of such sanctions is being maintained since 1985. According to this record, 77 widows of freedom fighters from Orissa have been granted pension during the period January, 1985 to November, 1986.

Keeping in view the difficulties faced by the dependents of the freedom fighters in getting the pension transferred in their names under the existing provision, the Government is now considering to authorise the State Government to entertain such requests and transfer the dependent pension, after due verification at their own level without referring the case to this Ministry.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA:

May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government accepted in principle that the freedom fighters of the State should get both the Central and the State pensions simultaneously. If so, I want to know from the hon. Minister how many freedom fighters after getting the Central pension, have not received the State pension so far in the State of Orissa.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI:

Sir, so far as the State pensions are concerned, we are not concerned with them. Our Government only grants Central pension. So far as Orissa is concerned, we have given a large number of pensions. Now, today a total number of 3,789 freedom fighters of Orissa are getting the Central pensions. And, Sir, about whatever cases have been rejected, we are trying to review every genuine case. Whatever genuine case of a freedom fighter is there, we are trying to review it. The hon. Members also must have felt that during the last many years many cases have been reviewed and pensions have been given.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: My second supplementary relates to parts (b) and (c) of the question. The question is whether the Government would reconsider the application of freedom fighters which were rejected on flimsy grounds.

Sir, in this connection I would like to refer to the answer given today. Sir, my question was specific. What is the total number of widows of that State getting pension for the last five years. But in the answer it has been mentioned that 77 widows of freedom fighters from Orissa have been granted pension during the period from January, 1985 to November, 1986. That means, these 77 widows have been sanctioned pension in the last one year. But what about the last four years? That figure I wanted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants figures for the earlier period.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: In the statement also we have made it clear that 77 widow-dependants have got pension from January to November, 1986. We are keeping figures only after 1983. So, as far as figures up to 1983 are concerned, again we have to go into those figures and let the hon. Member know about them.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: Even though the question is regarding the number of cases in Orissa, if you permit I would like to ask a question. My question is what is the total number of applications pending with the Government and by what time is the Government going to take a final decision on those applications? I am asking this question because about six months back the then Minister in charge of freedom fighters' pensions had given an assurance to the House that by 15th of August the Government will take a final decision on all the pending applications. If you permit I will ask this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, it is in general interest. It has been permitted.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: My question is how many applications are pending with the Government and by what time will he take a final decision on them?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have information you can give.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: We have already laid a statement on the Table, but I may state that the total number of cases that are still pending is 5,727. Sir, we are reviewing the cases as

per your direction given on that day and all the genuine cases are being considered.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTUL-LA: I would like to ask the hon. Minister if he is aware of certain cases where some people who are below the age of forty are getting the freedom fighters pension while the genuine freedom fighters are going from pillar to post to get pension for them.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: In many such cases which have come to our notice, pension has been suspended.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: In this connection I may point out that some of the dependants of the freedom fighters, who have been allowed the benefit may be less than 40, but this has been allowed under the scheme of dependants of the freedom fighters.

डा० बापू कालदाते : सभापति महोदय, इसी प्रश्न के संदर्भ में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि गोआ के जिन लोगों ने आंदोलन में भाग लिया था उनको भी आपने अब इसी फ्रीडम फाइटर की कैटेगरी में लिया है। इस तरह से जो संख्या आपके पास फ्रीडम फाइटर की है उस में बढ़ोतरी हो जायेगी। हम को यह चाहिये कि सारे का सारा काम जिसे 15 अगस्त तक पूरा करने का आश्वासन आपने दिया था वह अभी पूरा नहीं हुआ है लेकिन यह बहुत जरूरी है। इस काम को एक दफा पूरा किया जाए तो क्या आप यह बता सकते हैं कि किस समय तक सारा काम आप पूरा करेंगे।

श्री बूटा सिंह : सभापति जी, जैसे कि माननीय सदस्य ने खुद माना है कि जितने पेंडिंग केसेज थे उनके लिए एक स्पेशल सेल बना कर सब को स्क्रीनीनाइज कर के सबके लिए अंतिम निर्णय दे दिया गया है और सभी राज्य सरकारों को लिख दिया है कि जो केसेज रिजेक्ट हो चुके हैं उनको नहीं मानना चाहिये। फिर भी यदि कोई सही सबूत पेश कर सकता है और सही सबूत हमें मिल सकता है तो हम उस केस को रिवीयन करने के लिए तैयार हैं। We are not treating it in a bureaucratic manner.

ऐसा कहना कि अमुक समय के पहले पहले हम सबको को निपटा देंगे मुश्किल होगा ।

It is a continuing process. I need the co-operation of the State Governments to complete the process. We do not want to delay the cases. We have already delayed them beyond doubt.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: In the last session when the Question was put about the number of applications pending relating to my State, the hon. Minister had said about seven applications are pending, but in the information which I gathered from the Freedom Fighters' Association, more than 2,000 applications are pending for consideration by the Central Government. Therefore, I would like to know what actually is the number of pending applications from Pondicherry.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: We gave the figures of those which are actually pending with us. But then there are cases which are again recommended by the State Governments and the Screening Committees. We are again getting those applications and are reviewing those applications also.

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVJIT SINGH: With your permission, I would like to thank the hon. Minister, because as a result of my raising the issue at the last Question Hour two weeks ago, the pension has been granted. Not only that, it has been granted to various other similar cases which were pending with the Delhi Administration. I am very grateful to the hon. Minister. I would also like to convey the appreciation of the Freedom Fighters' Association of Delhi which has requested me to convey it to him. So, I must thank the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The compliment is accepted.

श्री ज़ोरेन्द्र वर्मा : माननीय गृह मंत्री
जो बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि सन्...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Liberalised pensions for the Territorial Army Pensioners

*441. **SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether liberalised pensions to the Territorial Army Pensioners have been finalised so far; if so, the number of cases finalised and if not, the number of cases pending for finalisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): A total of 40 officers, 167 JCOs and 363 ORs of the Territorial Army are eligible for pension under the Liberalised Pension Scheme.

Of these, 34 cases of officers have been finalised and in 76 cases of JCOs and 161 ORs, provisional pension has been sanctioned. Remaining cases are in various stages of finalisation.

Revision of Salary of the MCD Employees

*450. **SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has recently requested the Union Home Ministry to amend the relevant law and the relevant rules for an upward revision of the salary of its employees; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): No amendment of law or the rules is necessary to be carried out by the Union Government for upward revision of the salary of the employees of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and no request for this purpose has been received.

(b) Does not arise.