

satisfied that there are adequate numbers of students who are wanting education in the collegiate stage, the Government would certainly consider such a proposal.

**GRANT OF FURTHER RELIEF TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PENSIONERS**

•446. SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Press Note issued by Government on 9th June, 1958, affording further relief to Central Government pensioners constitutes a final settlement of the claims made by such pensioners in their memorial submitted to the Government of India;

(b) in what sense are the increases described in the Press Note as "temporary";

(c) whether any relief is contemplated for those drawing pensions above Rs. 100 per month;

(d) what will be the additional charge on the revenues of the Central Government as a result of these "temporary" increases; and

(e) whether Government propose to take any steps to invite the attention of State Governments to the need for adequate relief to pensioners who were formerly in the service of State Governments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA): (a) Yes.

(b) The term "temporary" implies that the concession is liable to be withdrawn or reduced as and when considered appropriate by the Government. The Government, however, do not intend to withdraw or reduce the rates of temporary increases in pension for the present.

(c) No.

(d) Rs. 1,30,00,000 per annum (approximately).

(e) The State Governments have been informed of the decision taken

in the matter in respect of the Central Government's pensioners. It is now for them to take any action which they might consider appropriate in relation to their pensioners.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I should like to ask one question. You say in answer to part (a) of the question that it is final. And then you say in reply to part (b) of the question that the concession is liable to be withdrawn or reduced as and when considered appropriate by the Government. What is meant by that?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: Sir, when these increases were made, they were termed 'temporary', principally because when sanctioned for the first time, they were intended to be temporary. Since then, of course they have come to stay and they have become more or less permanent. The hon. Member has asked the specific question as to why in the Press Note the word 'temporary' was there, and in reply to that question I have given this answer.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: I understood the Deputy Minister in another way, suggesting that perhaps she meant interim by the word 'temporary'. May I know, Sir, whether the Pay Commission is considering the claims of pensioners for a more liberal scale, and also is the report of the Pay Commission likely to make any reference to this point?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: Sir, it depends on the Pay Commission themselves whether to refer to this issue or not. but in the terms of reference it is not there.

SHRI B. KHTVA RAO: In reply to part (c) of my question I think the Deputy Minister has said "No". Is she aware that in Britain there have been six revisions of pension in the last 20 years in order to keep pace with the rising prices, and also, Sir, is she aware that at the present moment the prices are steadily rising in this country with no prospect of their falling?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: I am aware of all these things. But there is no proposal at present to increase the pension of those drawing beyond Rs. 100 per month.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: Apart from any more liberal scale of pension, is the Deputy Minister aware that there are delays to the extent of two, three, four or even more years in the payment of pension in many States and even at the Centre, and there are thousands of such cases where people are waiting for the payment of their pension to begin, though they retired many years ago?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: Sir, That is exactly the reason why sometimes the matters are delayed. These people retired before 1952. They are covered under these pension concessions. In some cases where the people retired before 1952 there might be a little delay. I have no information about that. But if there are any specific cases. I would be very grateful if the hon. Member brings them to our notice, and the payment will be expedited.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: May we take it that this is not temporary in the sense that the increase given is permanent now?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: I have said, Sir, in answer to the main question that the Government, however, do not intend to withdraw or reduce the rates of temporary increases in pension for the present.

SHRI AHMAD SAID KHAN: Is it the intention of the Government to assure these pensioners that so long as the price-index remains so high as it is today, these concessions will not be withdrawn?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: Sir, I have said that at present there is no proposal to increase or decrease the rates. The rate of pension that was fixed for the first time in 1945 was already increased after the rise in prices and after the appointment

of the Gadgil Committee. The present rate of pension up to Rs. 50 comes to Rs. 10 per month, the pension above Rs. 50 up to Rs. 100 comes to Rs. 12-50 per month. This is the present rate which has already been advanced. So there is no proposal to increase it.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU: Arising out of the answer given by the Deputy Minister, may I ask whether it is the view of the Government that the rise in prices has not hit the pensioners and that they are immune . . .

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: No, Sir, I have never expressed that opinion that the Government is completely immune to the situation arising out of the rise in prices. I have only said that at present there is no proposal to increase the rate of a pension as such.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU: Why is the Government determined not to have any further enquiry into the matter?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: Sir, the Government has not closed its mind. It is only a hypothetical analysis that, the hon. Member is making in this connection.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, if this increase has been made in the pension of the postal workers also?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: Yes, Sir. It covers all the civil employees and also it covers the employees on the defence side.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: May I know, Sir, whether it is the policy of the Government to restrict the period of pension, because some pensioners live more than the period they serve the Government?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: Well, Sir, the present rules are there for the hon. Member to see.

SHRI B. B. SHARMA: May I know, Sir, what is the proportion of the pensioners to the total starving agriculturist population?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: I should like to have a separate notice\* to answer that question.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, the States which have so far acted up to the recommendation! of the Centre in respect of excess pension to these pensioners?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: Sir, the State Governments were informed about the decision, and now, as I said in my answer, it is up to them to take any decision they like. So far they have not informed us that they have taken any decision in regard to this matter.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: Sir, with all respect to the Deputy Minister, she did not understand the implications of my last supplementary question. It is not the duty of any Member of Parliament to bring these cases of delay in the payment of pension to her notice. I suggest that it is the primary duty of the Finance Ministry itself to see that when a person has retired, he or she gets the payment of pension promptly, without having to wait for three, four or five years. There are 3,000 cases in Rajasthan, and I was told that there were about 9,000 cases in the Defence Ministry at the end of the last year. I am asking the Deputy Minister as to what she is doing about this.

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: Sir, all necessary steps are being taken to expedite the payment of pensions.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What are the reasons, Sir, that 9,000 people and 3,000 people are made not to have any pension?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: Sir, it is not that they are not going to have any pension. Of course, there are some cases which have not been decided as yet and there are others which have been decided but they have not been expedited so far.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What is the reason for this delay?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: Already I have explained that because these cases cover the period before 1952 and the cases are very old, it will take a little time to expedite all these cases.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF GANDHI BHAVANS IN UNIVERSITIES

\*447. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to start Gandhi Bhavans in selected universities in India in consultation with the University Grants Commission and the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the universities where these Bhavans will be started in the first instance and what aid will be given by Government to each of them?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION  
(DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): (a) and (b).  
A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### STATEMENT

(a) Although the Government of India have no proposal under consideration, the University Grants Commission has approved a scheme for the establishment of Gandhi Bhavans in the Indian Universities, as drawn up by the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi.

(b) The Commission has also decided to start Gandhi Bhavans in the Universities of Allahabad, Delhi, Kerala, Nagpur, Panjab, Patna and Rajasthan, in the first instance. It has also decided to assist each of the Universities starting such Bhavans to the extent of Rs. 50,000 while the Smarak Nidhi will contribute a similar amount for the purpose.