

is a State subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and Prison Administration is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments, the State Governments have to take a view on this.

Proposal for a minimum monthly pension of Rs. 1000 for EPF subscribers

*146. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal for a minimum monthly pension of Rs. 1,000 for Employees Pension Fund (EPF) subscribers is still under discussion with the union leaders and the Ministry of Finance;

(b) whether it is also a fact that EPF scheme introduced in 1995 remains unchanged for seventeen long years without any upward revision in the pension benefit; and

(c) whether the Ministry will raise it to at least Rs. 3,000 in view of the fact that the cost of living has gone up enormously?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE) : (a) to (c) A proposal of the Pension Implementation Committee, a Sub-Committee of Central Board of Trustees, (CBT), Employees Provident Fund (EPF) to enhance the minimum pension under EPS-95 to Rs. 1000 is under consideration of the Government.

Increase/relief has been granted from time to time to EPF pensioners (total four times till date) in the following manner and the amount of pension has increased accordingly:—

Rate of Relief	Granted <i>w.e.f.</i>
4% of original pension amount	15.11.1996
5.5% of original pension amount	01.04.1998
4% of original pension amount	01.04.1999
4% of original pension amount	01.04.2000

Also, various categories of minimum pension were increased *w.e.f.* 29.1.2000 in the following manner:

Category of Pension	Increased from	Increased to
Widow/Widower Pension	Rs. 250/-	Rs. 450/-
Children Pension	Rs. 115/-	Rs. 150/-
Orphan Pension	Rs. 170/-	Rs. 250/-

Women in armed forces

*147. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that women constitute just 2.84 per cent of the officers in the Navy, 3.01 per cent in the Army and 8.55 per cent in the Indian Air Force, excluding the medical streams, despite being allowed into the armed forces since the early 1900s;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to recruit more women in all the three forces very soon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (d) Induction of women in the three Services viz Army, Navy and Air Force commenced during 1992-1993. The representation of women officers in the armed forces has increased progressively over the years. There has also been a progressive increase in the branches where women officers are inducted. At present, the percentage of women officers in Army, Navy and Air Force, excluding medical streams, is 3.3 per cent, 3.9 per cent and 10.04 per cent respectively. Women officers are recruited in the branches open to them for induction within the overall authorized strength of officers' cadre of respective Service, based on merit on all India basis. There is an endeavour to fill up the vacancies of officers from amongst eligible candidates, which is a continuous and an ongoing process.

Population policy of State Governments violating human rights

*148. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has sought details of the population policies framed by various State Governments in the country;