

Increase in pension under social welfare schemes

1991. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M. P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister has made a proposal to increase the amount of pension under various social welfare schemes of Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah, Member, Planning Commission to prepare a proposal for a Comprehensive National Social Assistance Programme. The Task Force considered all the issues, demands and suggestions relating to pensions received from various quarters. The Task Force has submitted its Report to the Ministry. The recommendations of the Task Force relate mainly to eligibility criteria, quantum of assistance, processes relating to identification, sanction and disbursement, and strengthening the administrative structure. The recommendations of the Task Force have been examined in detail by the Ministry of Rural Development and accepted with some modifications. The action has been initiated to take the approval of the Competent Authority.

Ranking in Global Innovation Index

1992. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's positions in the Global Innovation Index has been declining over the last years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has established the National Innovation Foundation in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof, including the number of innovations recorded since the inception of this Foundation; and the steps taken by Government to improve talent of students in the country?