

Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) having ultimate irrigation potential of 76.03 lakh hectares and balance estimated cost of ₹ 77595 crore (Central Assistance (CA) component of ₹ 31342 crore) have been prioritised in consultation with States for completion in phases upto December, 2019.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that they have sanctioned an aggregate loan amount of ₹ 69,708.37 crore under Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) set up in NABARD, in respect of 96 on-going major/medium irrigation projects under PMKSY-AIBP, Polavaram project in Andhra Pradesh and North Koel Reservoir Project in Jharkhand and Bihar.

Restoration of old pension scheme

2113. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees of Central and State Governments are demonstrating for scrapping of NPS and restoration of Old Pension Scheme (OPS);

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

(c) whether some of the State Governments have passed resolutions for restoration of OPS and have sent it to Central Government for approval and implementation;

(d) if so, the details thereof and response of Central Government thereto;

(e) whether Government would restore the Old Pension Scheme instead of increasing the Government contributions to 14 per cent; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA): (a) to (f) The Government of India *vide* notification dated 22.12.2003 had introduced a new restructured defined contribution pension system which is applicable to Central Government employees (except armed forces) and the said notification is deemed to be National Pension System (NPS) under Section 20 of the PFRDA Act, 2013. The PFRDA Act, 2013, has been passed by Parliament of India and notified *w.e.f.* 01.02.2014. Under Section 12 (4) of PFRDA Act, 2013, the State Governments have been empowered to notify NPS for its employees. Further, other than West Bengal, all State Governments have voluntarily notified NPS in respect of its employees.

Government has made a conscious move to shift from the defined benefit pension scheme to defined contribution pension scheme *i.e.* National Pension System (NPS) due to rising and unsustainable pension bill. The transition also has the added benefit of freeing the limited resources of the Government for more productive and socio-economic sectoral development. There is no proposal to replace the NPS with old pension scheme in respect of Central Government employees recruited on or after 01.01.2004.

**Implementation of standing committee recommendation
(JCM) on pensions**

2114. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) average amount of pension given under National Pension System to Government employees under CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 and to those recruited on or after 1 January, 2004, the details thereof;

(b) the recommendation of Standing Committee of the National Council (JCM) held on 14 December, 2007, whether Government implemented this recommendation, if not, the reasons for not implementing; and

(c) whether Government has made any assurance to the employees that pension for the new recruits after 1 January, 2004 will not be less than the pension under CCS Pension Rule, 1972, and the progress made against this assurance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA): (a) As informed by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DPPW), under the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, applicable to Government servants before 01.01.2004, after completing a qualifying service of not less than 10 years, an employee is entitled to a pension @50% of his last pay or 50% of average emoluments for the last 10 months, whichever is more beneficial to him/her.

Further, the Government servant appointed on or after 01.01.2004 is covered under National Pension System (NPS), the amount of pension/annuity admissible to employee on exit from NPS depends on the accumulated pension wealth of the Government employee in his pension account.

(b) and (c) Pursuant to the recommendations of the 7th CPC, a Committee of Secretaries was constituted to suggest measures for streamlining NPS. The Committee after examination and consultation with various stakeholders and Staff side (JCM) under NPS submitted its report on 28.02.2018. Based on the Committee's recommendations, the Government on 06.12.2018 has approved proposals to streamline NPS and to