

Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Expenditure

Rajya Sabha

Un-Starred Question No 236

To be answered on Tuesday, 4th February 2025

Magha 15, 1946 (Saka)

Relasing of withheld DA and DR

236: Shri Javed Ali Khan:

Shri Ramji Lal Suman :

Will the Minister of *Finance* be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) for Central Government employees and pensioners were withheld for 18 months during the COVID-19 and not seized;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons as to why Government has seized it;
- (c) Whether Government would release the same to ensure spending by Government employees and thereby help in boosting the faltering economy of the Country;
- (d) If so, the details thereof; and
- (e) If not, the concrete reasons therefor?

Answer

**Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
(Shri Pankaj Chaudhary)**

- (a) to (e) The decision to freeze three installments of Dearness Allowance (DA) / Dearness Relief (DR) to Central Government employees/ pensioners due from 01.01.2020, 01.07.2020 & 01.01.2021 was taken in the context of COVID-19, which caused economic disruption, so as to ease pressure on Government finances. The adverse financial impact of pandemic in 2020 and the financing of welfare measures taken by the Government had a fiscal spill over beyond FY 2020-21. Therefore, arrears of DA/DR were not considered feasible.
