

Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Expenditure

Lok Sabha
Un-Starred Question No 172
To be answered on Monday, 3rd February 2025
Magha 14, 1946 (Saka)

Dearness Allowance of Central Government Employees during COVID-19

172: Shri Anand Bhadauria :

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

- a) Whether dearness allowance and dearness relief for Central Government employees and pensioners during the Covid-19 were withheld for 18 months but not seized;
- b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons for its seizure by the Government;
- c) Whether the Government would release the same to ensure spending by the Government employees and thereby help in boosting the faltering economy of the Country;
- d) If so, the details thereof ;
- e) If not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) 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.
- (c) No.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) 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.
