

A-G seeks advice on relief fund

By A Staff Reporter

THE accountant-general of Maharashtra has sought guidelines from the comptroller and auditor-general of India on the operation of the Prime Minister's and chief ministers' relief funds.

Mr. Madhu Limaye, M.P., told newsmen in Bombay on Friday that the accounts of these funds were never placed before Parliament and state legislatures.

He said Mrs. Gore had raised this issue in the state assembly and had subsequently written to the accountant-general of Maharashtra.

As the letter and three subsequent reminders did not elicit any reply, Mrs. Gore wrote him to say that she was asking Mr. Limaye to raise the issue in Parliament.

The accountant-general of Maharashtra thereupon replied that since the Prime Minister and the States' chief ministers maintained such a fund, a uniform decision was necessary in the matter.

That was why he had referred the matter to the comptroller and auditor-general of India for guidance. Meanwhile, Mr. Limaye had also given notice to the Lok Sabha speaker. The matter was expected to come up before the next session of the house, he added.

Mr. Limaye pointed out that the Prime Minister and chief ministers could not operate such funds at their "discretion." They attracted the provisions of article 284 of the constitution. Their accounts must be submitted to Parliament and respective state legislature.