

Nomination in the Advisory Committee under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

4766. SHRI SHASHI PRAKASH:
 PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for nominating non-official members in the Advisory Committee, constituted under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) whether the existing non-official members in the Committee have been nominated as per the guidelines;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have laid down/ proposed to lay down any academic qualifications and expertise in field of environment and forests to attract talented personnel in the Committee;

(e) whether the site inspections for various projects are being conducted by the nominated members instead of senior Forest Officers of the Regional offices of his Ministry;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the measures taken to utilise expert opinions before giving clearance for forest diversions.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) As per Forest (Conservation) Rules, 1981, the Advisory Committee constituted under section 3 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1930 shall have 3 eminent environmentalists as non official members of the committee. A non official member shall hold his office for a

period of two years. He shall cease to hold office if he dies, resigns, becomes of unsound mind, becomes insolvent or is convicted by a court of law on a criminal offence involving moral turpitude.

(b) The existing non official members of the Advisory Committee have been nominated after careful consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The non official members of the Advisory Committee shall be eminent environmentalists. However, no academic qualification has been prescribed.

(e) to (g). As per guidelines issued for implementation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, site inspection is required to be done by the officials of the Regional Offices of the Ministry in respect of all proposals involving diversion of forest land above 40 ha. In addition site inspection of some projects are carried out by the member (s) of the Advisory Committee, if after discussing the project, the Committee recommends site inspection by the members of the Committee and the recommendations are accepted by the Government.

Employment of Retired Persons in Konkan Railway Corporation

4767. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any instruction that retired officials should not be re-employed in Government service;

(b) whether his Ministry have appointed retired officials of age group 50 to 60 years and above, in the Konkan Railway Corporation;

(c) if so, the number of such officials and the reactions for their appointment;

(d) whether those officials are proposed to be relieved from service and make fresh recruitments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (A) Under the extant instructions, re-employment of retired officials is not permissible in the normal circumstances. However, re-employment may be resorted to in very rare and exceptional circumstances, purely in the public interest, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.

(b) to (e). Konkan Railway Project has a very tight time schedule for completion by October, 1994. The construction involves a number of long tunnels, bridges and high viaducts. Sufficient number of persons with Railway experience and background not being available with the Indian Railways for being taken on deputation, the Corporation has been engaging retired Railway Officers and staff to a limited extent. Out of a total strength of 1400, the number of retired officers and employees of age between 58-60 in 98 and over 60 years is 50, mainly persons with technical expertise. Even then shortage of experienced and qualified personnel exists. The re-employed persons are being replaced as and when suitable candidates become available.

Rehabilitation of Mentally Retarded Persons

4768. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any case of sending mentally retarded patient to beggars home by Mental Hospitals of Delhi has come to the notice of Government during the last one year:

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for the rehabilitation of those patients who have lost their memory or become mentally retarded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). As reported by the Delhi Administration, no such mentally retarded patient was sent Beggars Home during the last one year.

(c) The Delhi Administration have initiated steps to set up a Half way home for the mentally (Improved) ill discharged from Hospital for Mental Diseases, Shahdara. To start with, land measuring 4 acres along with funds to the extent of Rs. 60 lakhs was transferred to Directorate of Social Welfare (Delhi Administration) in 1988 from Hospital for Mental Diseases, Shahdara. Boundary wall has been constructed having a separate entry.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Hospitals by Non-Resident Indians

4769. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group of professional Indians in the Gulf have expressed their keenness to set up hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Medical Council of India have considered the proposals of the Non-resident Indians; and

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon?