

1	2	3
5.	Haryana	1,760
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	120
7.	Karnataka	4,800
8.	Kerala	1,920
9.	Maharashtra	24,320
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2,220
11.	Orissa	1,920
12.	Punjab	1,280
13.	Rajasthan	3,840
14.	Tamil Nadu	9,600
15.	Uttar Pradesh	12,800
16.	West Bengal	2,220
17.	Himachal Pradesh	1,920
18.	Pondicherry	60
19.	Goa, Daman & Diu	60
20.	Delhi	60
21.	Others	300
22.	K.V.I.C.	16,000
Total		1,15,280

Extension of Services After Superannuation

359. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for giving extension to employees after superannuation;

(b) whether service records of the employees are gone into at the time of giving extension; and

(c) if so, the number of employees on extension at present and the reasons for granting them extension ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) . Extension in service after superannuation to a government employee is to be granted in very rare and exceptional circumstances, purely in public interest when either another officer is not ripe enough to take over the job or the retiring officer is of outstanding merit. Before granting extension, the character-roll and other relevant records of the government employee are carefully scrutinised.

(c) As the appropriate authorities in respective Ministries/Departments are competent to grant extension in service to government employees belonging to various groups working in and under them, information about the number of employees who are on extension at present is not available centrally in this department.

Check on Advancing of Desert

360. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that desert is advancing at a great pace and something has to be done to check it; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by Government in this regard at national level ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) According to the studies of the Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur, no conclusive scientific evidence is available to suggest that the Thar Desert is spreading. The studies, however, underline the fact that xeric conditions within the desert have accentuated due to over exploitation of vegetation and land resources.

(b) Desertification control measures are being taken by a number of departments with the primary objective of improving the productivity of land through such measures as sand dune stabilisation, afforestation, pasture development and improved water harvesting techniques. These schemes are being implemented under Desert Development Programme, Drought Prone Areas Programme and Integrated Eco-Development Programmes. The Indira Gandhi Canal Network aims at bringing large areas under irrigated agriculture. The Eco-Task Force in Bikaner and the Pushkar Lake Eco-Development Programmes are also aimed at integrated development of the desert area.

Strengthening of Monitoring Units in State Planning Bodies

361. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :