

(b) if not, whether Government propose to impose a blanket ban on extensions for retiring personnel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND CULTURE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) A proposal whether the age of superannuation of some categories of scientists need to be raised from 58 to 60 years is under examination in the Department of Science and Technology.

(b) Instructions already exist prohibiting extension/re-employment in service except in very rare and exceptional cases in the public interest.

Afforestation of Wasteland

192 SARI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has proposed the afforestation of five million hectares of wasteland per annum;

(b) if so, what are the species being chosen for planting under this project; and

(c) details of organisational structure and financial implications of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No species have been chosen in particular. Species suitable for production of fuelwood and fodder would be planted. These would vary depending on edaphoclimatic conditions.

(c) The details are not yet finalised.

Impact of Bhopal Gas Tragedy on Environment

193. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted any study of the impact of recent Bhopal gas tragedy on the environment;

(b) if so, its findings;

(c) whether the Union Carbide Factory in Bhopal had received clearance of the Water and Air Pollution Control Board; and

(d) if so, the Reasons for giving this clearance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) and (b) : Yes Madam. A summary report of the findings is placed on the table.

(c) and (d) : Clearance for waste water discharge was given by the State Board subject to installation of solar evaporation pond which was complied by the industry. No clearance for air emission was given by the Board.

Summary Report of Impact Studies on Environment due to Bhopal Gas Leakage

A team of scientists from Central Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution and the Department of Environment conducted on December 5, 1984 an initial air quality survey in the affected area and of water supply source of the city of Bhopal. The water was found safe and is continued to be monitored thereafter also by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. Air quality was found to be safe.

2. Subsequently another team comprising scientists of the Central Board conducted a survey of the affected area to assess the impact on vegetation and soil.

3. The extent of total vegetation damage in terms of area may be given as follows :

Severely affected zone—3.5 sq. km.
Badly affected zone —10 sq. km.
Moderately affected zone —6 sq. km.
Mildly affected zone —5 sq. km.