

(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.

4. It was possible to demarcate roughly the affected area by the vegetation damage survey. It was also possible to score the damage or the imprint of the gas on the individual plants, and based on this indexing the relative sensitivity of the plants could be determined.

Project to Promote Various Languages of Bihar

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

(a) whether any project is under preparation or has been launched to preserve and promote various languages of Bihar like Maithili etc, including tribal languages and the folk arts and traditions and songs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to give these languages recognition in their own right rather than as sub-languages or dialects of Hindi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) : Although there is no project exclusively for the preservation of languages of Bihar, the Sahitya Akademi has recognised Maithili as an independent modern literary language of India in which the Akademi's programme is implemented. The Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, engaged in the promotion and development of tribal languages has done work for the promotion of the dialects of Kurem, Malto and Mundari of Bihar. The Anthropological Survey of India has made studies of the Santhal, Oraon and Munda tribals. The Handicrafts Board has given impetus to the Madhubani paintings. The Sangeet Natak Akademi has promoted folk and tribal art and

music and dance of these areas. It has documented, through photographs, colour slides, various tribes like Mundas, Oraons, Jiltas, Labris, Lahasanas and Moghes. The music of Chhau dance has been recorded for preservation. Six hours of folk music of the Mithila region, marriage songs, Banjara, Jhoomer songs have been recorded. The 'padas' of Vidyapati, Chaumasa, Holi, 'Alha' have also been documented.

(c) As already stated, the Sahitya Akademi has recognised Maithili as literary language, in addition to Hindi. For the literary development of languages not recognised by the Akademi, it has also set up a Committee to make recommendations in respect of schemes for recognition of languages/dialects. This Committee will look into the claims, if any, of other languages or dialects of Bihar.

Violence During 1984 Parliamentary Poll

195. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received reports of violence resulting in death of any persons during the election campaign/conduct in 1984 Parliamentary Poll; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) and (b) : Yes, Sir. Information received in this regard from the State Governments of Assam, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim and U.P. is given in attached Statement. Information in respect of the remaining States are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.