

Wasteland Force

2157. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government intends to raise an ex-servicemen Force for development of wasteland;

(b) if so, the task proposed to be assigned to such Force being raised for this purpose;

(c) whether the Ministry of Defence has agreed to assist in raising this Force; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAM SINGH) : (a) to (d) For development of non-forest wastelands in the difficult and ravine areas of Madhya Pradesh including the districts of Morena and Bhind, the Department of Wastelands Development has proposed the raising of a Wasteland Development Task Force. The Ministry of Defence has agreed in principle to assist in raising the Wasteland Development Task Force. Details are being worked out.

[*Translation*]

Reservation Policy in Departments Proposed to be Privatised

2158. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK :
SHRI ANAND AHRWAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to continue with the practice of existing reservation policy regarding Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the departments going to be privatised;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken to protect the interest of such employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) to (c) A Government department, as such, cannot be privatised. However, if any of the existing functions of any of the Government Departments are privatised and the staff become surplus, the existing instructions ensure that preference is given to SC/ST employees for retention to the extent that the prescribed percentages of reservation for SC/ST are maintained in each grade in a cadre.

[*English*]

Use of Fluoride Water

2159. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fluoride water being consumed in the country;

(b) if so, the harmful effects of this water; and

(c) the steps taken to deal with this problem?