

[English]

Plight of Soldiers at Siachen

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Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the average number of casualties among the soldiers posted at Siachen due to inclement weather per day,

(b) the number of soldiers died incapacitated or suffered from ailments which made them unsuitable for posting at high altitudes during each of the last three years separately, and

(c) the special measures taken to bring down the rate of casualty and to boost their morale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Indian troops have suffered some casualties both in combat and due to the severe climatic conditions of Siachen. It would not be in the interest of security to disclose further details.

2 The following measures have been taken to bring down the casualties and to protect the soldiers from the inclement weather at Siachen—

(a) A thorough medical examination is conducted before posting the soldiers to high altitudes including Siachen.

(b) They are gradually acclimatised at different heights before reaching Siachen.

(c) They are provided nourishing food, protective clothing, goggles, boots etc.

(d) They are imparted health education for prevention and early recognition of illness at high altitudes. In the event of illness, they are provided immediate medical care and are evacuated by the quickest possible means, whenever necessary.

[Translation]

Construction of Government Quarters

2198 SHRI RATILAL VARMA Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) the number of Government quarters constructed in Gujarat by the Central Public Works Department during each of the last three years, and

(b) the number of quarters out of aforesaid quarters allotted to Central Government employees so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a),

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Type I	74	68	70
Type II	99	58	28

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Type III	48	55	55
Type IV	9	—	37
Type V	8	—	18
	238	181	206

(b) After completion the quarters are handed over to Client departments. Allotment is made by them. In the case of general pool quarters the allotment is made by the CPWD. All the quarters under general pool accommodation have been allotted.

[English]

Wasteland Development

2199 SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the total area of wasteland in hectare in Maharashtra brought under the green cover during the last three years,

(b) the total area of wasteland in hectare which is likely to be brought under the scheme,

(c) the total amount so far provided by the Union Government to Maharashtra for this scheme during the last three years

(d) the total amount incurred so far and

(e) the steps being taken to utilise the remaining amount if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAO RAM SINGH): (a) An area of 4.05 lakh hectares has been brought under green cover through afforestation/tree planting activity carried on lands including wastelands and 3067.83 lakh seedlings have been distributed for planting on private lands during the last three years in Maharashtra under Point No. 16 of the 2-Point Programme.

(b) During 1994-95, a target of afforestation/tree planting on 1.36 lakh hectares and distribution of 838.72 lakh seedlings for planting on private lands has been proposed under Point No. 16 of the 20-Point Programme.

(c) to (e) An amount of Rs. 21,738.43 lakh has been allocated to the state of Maharashtra for afforestation/tree planting under Point No. 16 of the 20-Point Programme during the last three years under the Central and State Plans against which an amount of Rs. 21,930.74 lakhs have been utilised. Under Point No. 16 of the 20-Point Programme, afforestation/tree planting activities are taken up under various Central and State schemes like Integrated Wastelands Development Projects, Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies, Technology Development and Extension, Investment Promotional Scheme, Wastelands Development Task Force, Drought Prone Areas Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme, Social Forestry, Employment Guarantee Scheme linked horticulture and Employment Guarantee Scheme linked Social Forestry.