

Extension In Deputation Period

2961. SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the procedure followed while seeking extension in deputation period/tenure of Officers of the ranks of Deputy Secretaries and above in the Instrumentalities of the Government of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons and justification thereof; and

(c) whether this procedure has been/is being followed in getting/seeking extension in tenures of its Officers by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan?

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) and (b). The posts at the level of Deputy Secretary and above in various Ministries/Departments are filled up under the Central Staffing Scheme. Normally, extension of period of tenure of an officer appointed under the Central Staffing Scheme is not allowed. However, in exceptional cases, depending upon merit of each case, extension of tenure, beyond the normal period of tenure, is considered with the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

(c) The appointment of officers in the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is governed by separate recruitment rules for various posts in that organisation and not under the Central Staffing Scheme. However, the period of their deputation in the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is regulated in accordance with the general instructions relating to deputation of Central Government employees.

Reconstruction of Charar-E-Sharief

2962. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Dargah Sharief at Charar has been reconstructed or is under reconstruction and if so, the estimated cost of reconstruction and the agency employed for the purpose;

(b) the number of houses which were destroyed in Charar-E-Sharief in May, 1995;

(c) the number of houses which have been rebuilt so far;

(d) the number of families which have received ex-gratia payment for the loss of their habitation and goods of trade; and

(e) the total amount distributed as ex-gratia so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) The Dargah Sharief in Charar town is under the management of J&K Muslim Auqaf Trust which has taken steps to prepare the architectural and engineering drawings for the proposed new structure. The construction work has not yet begun on the Shrine proper. However, the Trust has constructed a protection wall around the Sanctum-Sanctorum. The reconstruction of the Shrine by the Government is not contemplated as there is no demand for doing so from the people.

(b) and (c). 865 houses were destroyed in the fire incident of May 1995 in Charar-e-Sharief. The State Government has reported that reconstruction of most of the houses has since begun.

(d) In the 865 houses gutted in fire, 1022 families were involved. Each family was given an interim relief of Rs. 10,000 by way of immediate succour. For the loose of structure, an amount of Rs. 1 lakh in each case was sanctioned from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. This was over and above the relief to which an owner is entitled from the State Government under its rules viz. 50% of the assessed loss subject to a maximum of Rs. 1 lakh in each case.

(e) The total amount of ex-gratia relief distributed so far from both sources is Rs. 14.442 Crores.

Production of Mini-Cigarettes

2963. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased state :

(a) whether the Government have taken note of the increase in the production and sale of mini-cigarettes by giant Cigarette manufacturing companies which is adversely affecting the viability of bidi industry;

(b) if so, value of the mini-cigarettes manufactured during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(c) the reasons for increase in the production of mini-cigarettes; and

(d) the steps the Government have taken or proposed to take to safeguard the interests of the bidi industry and other workers engaged in ancillary works connected with this industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (d). The Government have received representations from the