

[Translation]

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Afforestation in Bihar

2882. SHRI YUVRAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether forest area in Bihar is minimum in comparison to other states;

(b) whether heavy expenditure has been shown to have been incurred in the Seventh Five Year Plan for there plantation in the forest divisions of districts of Purnea, Madherpura, Saharsa, Araria, Kishanganj and Katihar in Bihar;

(c) whether there have been any reports regarding misuse of funds allocated for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the action taken against guilty officials and amount recovered from them and if no action has been taken the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROURAY): (a) According to studies conducted by Forest Survey of India using Satellite Imageries, the forest cover in Bihar is 2.69 million hectares which is 15.49% of the total geographical area of the State This is not the lowest percentage as compared to many other states.

(b) to (d). Information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

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Working Group on Pay Scales of Re-Employed Ex-servicemen

2883. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group constituted for the rationalisation of formula for Pay fixation, seniority and promotion of Ex-serviceman re-employed in Government/Public Sector Undertakings/Banks, etc.; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations and when Government are going to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Working Group has come to the conclusion that it is not feasible to introduce any uniformity in the rules governing fixation of pay of re-employed pensioner ex-Servicemen or seniority in various sectors re-employment in view of the basic differences in the pay/DA structure of the employing agencies etc. However, in regard to the question of providing weightage of military Service on-re-employment and for allotment of married accommodation, the working Group has recommended that the concerned Departments/Ministries, to whom the report of the Working Group has been forwarded, may take further necessary action.

229 Twenty-Point Programme
20-Point Programme

2884. SHRI P. NARSA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the State which are lagging behind in the implementation of 20-Point Programme as per the latest review;

(b) the reasons for the same; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to implement the 20-Point Programme most effectively.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) Statement