

Appointment of Inspector General of forest

4539. SHRI AHMED HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Junior person belonging to the Indian Forest Service cadre has been appointed as Inspector General of Forest in the Union Department of Agriculture, superseding a number of senior incumbents:

(b) if so, the circumstances under which he has been appointed in supersession; and

(c) recruitment rules prescribed and that followed for appointment to this post during the last ten years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (c). A copy of the recruitment rules in making this appointment followed during the last ten years is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2710/78]. According to the approved rules, the post is to be filled on a deputation basis, from among the (i) the Heads of Forest Departments in States and Union Territories (ii) President, Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dehradun. Accordingly, all incumbents of the above posts were considered for appointment to this post.

Since short-term appointments in senior posts, particularly at the level of Head of Organisation/Department, are not favoured, selection was made from among those eligible officers who were due to retire after a period of 2 years or more.

Allotment of Land to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during VI plan

4540. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for giving agricultural land to landless persons belonging to SC and ST has been included in the Draft 6th Plan; and

(b) if not, what steps are being taken to provide land to the persons of the community during the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). It has always been the policy of the Government to give priority in the allotment of ceiling surplus land to the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes. Most state laws and regulations also provide for such priority in allotment to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. This policy will be continued during the next five years also.

Link Roads in rural areas of Gujarat

4541. SHRI F. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the approach of Government to the problem of providing roads in rural areas and linking villages having a population of 750 and above with all-weather roads, in the context of Government policy towards rural development.

(b) number of villages having a population of 1500 and above and with a population between 750 and 1500 which required to be connected with all-weather Roads in Gujarat;

(c) whether Government accepts the fact that road communication in rural areas assumes greater importance for all-round development of village economy; if so, whether Government intends to link these villages with all-weather roads during the VI Plan period; and

(d) the outlay required to be made to achieve this purpose; and the provision made for the same during 1978-79 in the Central Sector?