

(7) राज्य के भौगोलिक क्षेत्र को किसी भी राज्य के मामले में अभिमानता नहीं दी गई है।

(8) राष्ट्रीय न्यूनतम आवश्यकता कार्यक्रम भी इस प्रकार से तैयार किया गया है जिससे कि व्यक्तियों के बीच की और क्षेत्रों के बीच की असमानताओं को दूर किया जा सके।

#### Posting of technocrats as heads of State undertakings

4939. SHRI N. SELVARAJU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for the induction of more competent technocrats into the Secretariat, especially the Ministries which are of a predominantly technical nature;

(b) the steps taken by Government to implement the recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission for posting technocrats to be heads of undertakings engaged in activities of a predominantly technical character; and

(c) the obstacles or hurdles, if any, in implementing the recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission and the steps taken to remove such obstacles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): (a) Appointments to the posts in the Secretariat of the Government of India is normally made from various organised services such as All India Services and Central Group 'A' Services. However, for posts at the Senior levels, apart from officers belonging to organised services, outstanding scientists/technocrats/economists are also considered keeping in view the specific requirements of each post. Presently, most Ministries/Departments which are predominantly of a technical character have technocrats as Secretaries/Additional Secretaries.

(b) and (c). Government has after due consideration, evolved a detailed procedure for selections to top level posts in public undertakings including those of heads of undertakings. Full details of the procedure have been laid down in Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Bureau of Public Enterprises Resolution of August 30, 1974 published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part I Section I of the same date.

#### Pension and Gratuity of personnel of former Suket State

4940. SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5276 on the 23rd July, 1980 regarding pension and gratuity of personnel of former Suket State:

(a) whether the representations made by the ex-soldiers of the erstwhile Suket State Forces (I.S.F. Units) have been received along with their service records;

(b) whether he is aware that these persons are entitled to pension and gratuity either under the State Forces Pension Rules or the Indian Army Rules;

(c) whether he is aware that in both the above cases, pension/gratuity can be provided to them in view of their record of service and the decorations earned by them;

(d) the steps taken to trace their service records in the concerned Regimental Centre rather than with the District Civil authorities; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken to mitigate their hardships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Representations were received on behalf of ex-soldiers of erstwhile Suket State Forces, along with their service particulars, for grant of pension to them.

(b) and (c). The soldiers of erst-while State Forces who were discharged prior to merger of these forces with the Indian Army were governed by the State Forces Rules. According to these rules, no pension was admissible but it was upto that State authorities to sanction pension in special cases. The individuals who had rendered service of 15 years or more were entitled to gratuity only. Those who had rendered less than 15 years service were not entitled to gratuity. There are no valid grounds to relax these rules in respect of the individuals whose case has been represented.

(d) Only in one case where the individual belonged to non-ISF Unit, service records are not traceable with the District authorities who are responsible for keeping such records. The Records Office (and not the Regimental Centre) who is supposed to keep records has also confirmed that the service records of the individual is not available with them.

(e) Financial assistance amounting to Rs. 1550 was given to some of these individuals in February and September, 1980 out of the District Flag Day Funds.

#### Districts and areas declared as Hill Areas

4941. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the districts and areas declared as hill areas in the country, State-wise;

(b) the districts and areas in Orissa considered as hill areas by the State Government and submitted to his Ministry for the consideration therefor;

(c) the schemes and programmes extended in Annual Plan of Fifth Plan and schemes for Sixth Plan for the development of the hill areas in the country; and

(d) funds provided therefor in Fifth Plan and proposals for Sixth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Hill Area Development Programme is operative since 1974-75 in the following areas:

States/Uts.	Districts/Talukas
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Uttar Pradesh—	Districts of Dehradun, Pauri Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal, Chamoli, Uttar Kashi, Almora, Pithoragarh and Nainital.
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Assam—	Districts of North Cachar and Karbi Anglong.
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Tamil Nadu—	Nilgiris District.
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West Bengal—	3 Sub-Divisions of Darjeeling District, namely Sadar, Kalimpong and Kurseong.
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Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Daman & Diu—	132 Talukas in the Western Ghats Region.
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(b) The State Government of Orissa wanted the following ten districts to be considered for inclusion in Hill Area Development Programme; Bolangir, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Phulbani, Sambalpur and Sundargarh.

(c) The Hill Area plans are not based on a uniform Schematic approach. They follow a sub plan approach. The State Governments prepare the sub-plans for their respective areas keeping in view the local requirements/priorities and the flow of funds from the state plan as well as the Central additive.

(d) For the Sixth Plan, a provision of Rs. 560 crores has been made for providing Special Central Assistance under the Hill Area Development Programme against a provision of Rs. 170 crores in the Fifth Plan.