

(b) No Sir.

(c) India's accomplishments in Antarctica have been acknowledged and appreciated by all the Antarctic Treaty countries. By virtue of its work in Antarctica, India has been admitted as a Consultative Party to the Antarctic Treaty and as a full member of Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research. Information obtained by India in the field of meteorology, biology, geology, geophysics and oceanography is being exchanged with other countries.

Revision of Rules Governing Central Government Employees

*254. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to redraft the service rules relating to leave, discipline and pension of Central Government staff ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Government have been reviewing various aspects of the service rules relating to leave, discipline and pension on an on-going basis whenever there is need for it or proposals are received in this regard.

Development of Wasteland

*255. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any estimate of the total wasteland in the country ;

(b) if so, State-wise details ; and

(c) the scheme prepared for the development of wasteland in the country in general and Madhya Pradesh in particular ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) There is no comprehensive and repeat survey for the country as a whole to provide precise estimate of wasteland. According to information given in the various reports including that of National Commission on Agriculture (1976), National Committee on Backward Area Development (1981) and Rashtriya Barh Ayog (1980), an overall estimate is that an area of about 175 million hectares in the country is affected by the problem of soil erosion and land degradation.

(b) The State-wise break-up of 175 million hectares is not available.

(c) A statement is given below.

Statement

The Action Plan drawn up by the National Wastelands Development Board for the development of wastelands for implementation by all the State Governments/ Union Territories including Madhya Pradesh has the following key elements :—

1. IDENTIFICATION OF WASTE-LANDS :

The State Government/Union Territory has been requested to identify wastelands in their territory whether they be in forest area, revenue/common lands or degraded farm lands.

2. PEOPLE'S INVOLVEMENT :

This will be ensured by the following measures :

(a) **Decentralised Nurseries** : People's nurseries i. e. kisans, schools, women, youth groups, voluntary agencies, etc., will be motivated to meet the increased demand of seedlings.

(b) **Farm Forestry** : Farmers will be motivated to take up tree farming on their marginal lands and planting on their field bunds. A rational policy in regard to distribution of seedlings should be evolved.

- (c) **Tree Growers' Cooperatives :** Tree Growers' cooperatives should be organised with the involvement of farmers in raising and distribution of seedlings and in tree plantations.
- (d) **Voluntary Agencies :** The grass-roots agencies, Mahila Mandals, Youth groups would also be motivated in nursery raising and tree plantations.
- (e) **Tree Pattas :** Strips of land along roads, rails, canals, etc., and other degraded land should be given to the rural poor, with usufruct rights on the trees planted by them on such lands.

NODAL AGENCY :

The State/U.T. Governments have been requested to identify a single nodal agency for ensuring an integrated approach for the implementation of the programme which is being executed by different agencies, official and otherwise.

SEED :

The States/UTs. have been requested to extend the scope of operation of the existing State Seed Corporations to include the production and supply of fodder, grass and legume seeds to farmers on commercial basis.

LEASING OF LANDS :

The State/UT. Governments have been requested to prepare guidelines for leasing of forest and non-forest wastelands for afforestation to the rural poor.

FOREST BASED INDUSTRIES :

Must be encouraged to afforest wastelands to produce the raw material needed by them. Industries must also be enthused to raise tree cover on wastelands with a view to provide employment to the rural poor as well

as to enable them to grow trees on a remunerative basis. The State Governments have been requested to draw up guidelines for the lease of wastelands to industries in this behalf.

7. URBAN FUELWOOD AND GREEN BELTS :

The States/UTs. have been requested to ensure that towns and cities have green belts of fuelwood and fodder plantations to cater to the urban fuelwood and fodder needs.

8. DEGRADED FOREST AREAS :

States have been requested to identify degraded forest lands and to reforest them with fuelwood and fodder species.

9. FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS :

The Forest Development Corporations should obtain wastelands on lease from the Governments for raising fuelwood and fodder plantations.

10. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS :

Government Departments, public sector undertakings and other bodies/institutions having substantial areas of unutilised lands must bring such land under tree cover.

11. MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION:

A massive publicity campaign through the traditional media of folk art and culture, radio, television and other audio visual aids should be undertaken to create awareness among the masses.

12. MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

The State/U.T. Governments should evolve appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanism to ensure qualitative implementation of the programme.