

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government have clarified the position to the departments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

(c) The Government are not aware of any requests made by Government servants for depositing their dues in Provident Fund which has been denied.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Statement

In terms of the provisions made in the General Provident Fund (Central Services) Rules, 1960, an employee can subscribe an amount which is not less than 6% of the emoluments and not more than his total emoluments :

Provided that in the case of a subscriber who has previously been subscribing to a Government Contributory Provident Fund at the higher rate of 8½%, the amount of subscription has to be not less than 8½% of his emoluments and not more than his total emoluments. The amount of subscription can be reduced once at any time during the course of the year or enhanced twice during the course of the year. The arrears of pay form part of total emoluments and are governed by the general provisions of the rules as above. The bonus does not form part of emoluments and is governed by specific orders issued by Government. The arrears of pay and allowances and payment of bonus are required to be deposited into the provident fund in the interest of the national economy to stem the inflationary trends.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMALA PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the employees are not inclined to make deposits in the Provident Funds, because the rate of interest is less than what is offered by the Banks. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether the

Government is considering the enhancement of the rate of interest.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, that would not be correct. The rate of interest is quite attractive and I think a large number of employees do avail of this option, to deposit in the Provident Fund. But the question, whether the rate of interest should be enhanced or not is a question which is under review by the Finance Ministry from time to time and the orders are issued by the Finance Ministry about the rate of interest.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Sir, in this scheme, the maximum that we can make an employee to deposit may go upto his full salary. In the private sector, upto 10 per cent of their salary, the employers contribute towards their Provident Fund. But, I think, the Central Government servant does not contribute more than 6 per cent or 8 per cent towards the Provident Fund. I think it is 6 per cent. In the private sector, if a worker deposits 10 per cent in the Provident Fund, an equal contribution is made by the employer. It is a matching contribution. I want to know from you, whether the Government is going to accept the same conditions for the Central Government employees also.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : This is a General Provident Fund, this is not a Contributory Provident Fund and I do not think there is any proposal to convert this into a Contributory Provident Fund.

#### Pollution in National Lake

\*432. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Union Government has been drawn to the growing pollution in the lake water of Nainital which is a health resort as also tourists attraction; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Union Government including chalking out any special scheme or giving financial assistance for a scheme drawn up by the State

Government to make the lake pollution-free ?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the State Government has to take necessary action in this regard. However, the Union Government is ready to provide necessary technical assistance in formulation of a scheme and give financial assistance to the extent possible within the available resources in the plan provisions if such a request is made by the State Government.

SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Sir, Nainital is a tourist centre, attracting domestic and international tourists. Keeping this fact in view, I would like to ask whether a report has been submitted to the Central Government by the Kumaon University, in which it has been stated that the lake water of Nainital is getting polluted and if the present rate of pollution continues, then the lake would become useless. If any such report has been submitted, then I would like to know the various details, as to when was this report submitted, what action has been taken on it and what are the reasons of this pollution ?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that the Nainital lake is a tourist spot. The Government of India had ordered a survey and the report thereof was submitted in 1979 in which it was said that a number of sullage nullahs were drained into the lake, and some sort of water weeds, technically called plankton have grown at the bottom. As a result water has indeed been polluted, which is not proper.

In view of this report, the Central Government wrote to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh that a project should be formulated to improve the situation. The State Government, following the Centre's advice, diverted more than half of the 24 drains, carrying sewage water and cleared the plankton growth as well. The State

Government was asked to prepare a project about the Nainital lake and submit it to the Central Government, and the Centre would render assistance. The Government of Uttar Pradesh is also very much concerned about it, and we are sure that it would soon find a solution.

SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Sir, the State Government has been burdened with the entire responsibility. I have said it earlier also, that it is a place of tourist interest and is frequented by domestic as well as international tourists. This lake water is used for drinking purposes also.

MR. SPEAKER : He has said that the Centre is prepared to fund the project.

SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Only giving money won't do. I want to emphasise that it is a special problem. In view of the special importance of the place will the Central Government take any action at its own level to clean this polluted lake ?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may be aware that such problems exist in many places of the country. The Dal Lake in Kashmir, which is a huge lake and is of historical importance, attracts the largest number of tourists is also suffering from the same problem. A project has been formulated which would involve an estimated expenditure of Rs. 115 crores. We know it is very essential to clean these lakes and we are making efforts as well to ensure that dirty water is not drained into these lakes. However, I would reiterate that as far as possible the State should undertake this work. If the State does not have the required resources, then it could prepare a project and submit it to the Central Government, and the latter would definitely consider rendering the necessary assistance.

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not say that in order to clap, one must use both the hands. (*Interruptions*)

ONE HON. MEMBER : Things can be done single handedly also.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot really clap, you can only wave a hand.

[*English*]

**SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINH :** It is possible that detailed estimates may not have been submitted to the hon. Minister. In June 1984, a conference was held under the then Minister, with the Kumaon Vishwa Vidyalyaya at Nainital, for the entire environmental planning of the Nainital Valley, including the lake. The details are there. A report was submitted, whereby the cleansing process would play the major part. Anyway, I would like to say that such problems exist in about 25 important hill stations of the country, and a decision should be taken for setting up authorities in each of these hill stations, whereby the problems of a large influx of people going there and creating slums, polluting waters, destruction of forests and non-perspective planning, are properly managed under these authorities. So, will the Union Government take the initiative of coordinating with the State Governments for having such authorities in all the major tourist hill stations in this country?

**MR. SPEAKER :** I thought this was a recommendation.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI BHAJAN LAL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I replied just now, that such problems exist in more than 25 hill stations. But we can only help them when they submit a proposal regarding a project. It was said that a meeting was held in Kumaon Vishwa Vidyalyaya in 1984 in which such a proposal had come up. We had written to the concerned State Government in 1979, and discussions were also held and action was also initiated on it.

[*English*]

**SHRI D.N. REDDY :** It is a problem concerning not only the Nainital lake. But also finds an echo in such places of interest throughout the country, wherever there are rivers and lakes. While it is a thing of beauty in the Western countries whenever there is a river or a lake in the precincts of the cities or towns, it is a source of danger in our country. Will Government think of passing a legislation for imposing severe penalties on those who pollute our rivers

and lakes? Even the holy Ganga is not spared.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI BHAJAN LAL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has framed an anti-pollution law which came into force on 19th November, 1986.

[*English*]

#### Denudation of Forests in Andhra Pradesh

\*433. **SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh is one of the States where green coverage is considerably low and denudation of forest is very high;

(b) the funds allotted for afforestation for the year 1986-87; and

(c) whether special steps are contemplated to improve afforestation in Andhra Pradesh?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :** (a) Proportionate forest cover and rate of its loss in Andhra Pradesh is almost the same as it is for the entire country.

(b) Rs. 12.63 crores have been provided for afforestation schemes in Andhra Pradesh during 1986-87 under Forestry Sector.

(c) In addition to intensifying afforestation efforts under Plan Schemes and the externally aided Social Forestry Project, the State Government propose to take up two new schemes for reclamation of *podu* areas and mechanised plantation.

**SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :** The importance of forests cannot be overstated. Forest is very important. The relation between the forest and the rainfall is very important. In this country, there are a number of areas where because of the