

approach to such senior bureaucratic posts; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) Appointments to top-most bureaucratic position in the Government of India are made through a process of strict selection on the basis of merit, competence, leadership and flair for participating in the policy-making process with due regard given to seniority.

*235. [Transferred to 24 August, 1993]

Task Force for identification of Wasteland

*236. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a task force to identify the waste land available for development;

(b) if so, what are the objectives of the proposed task force in addition to finding out the availability of waste land;

(c) whether Government propose to mobilise investment from Corporate sectors and financial institutions for development of waste land; and

(d) whether any discussions were held with the above institutions and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELAND DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAO RAM SINGH): (a) The Government have Constituted on 25th May, 1993 a Task Force for the resolution of Policy issues regarding Government/Community/Panchayat/Private wastelands.

(b) The Task Force will examine various aspects relating to Government/Community/Panchayat/Private wastelands in non-forest areas and make recommendations for formulating appropriate Policy Guidelines regarding availability and their utilisation for sustainable development. Moreover, the Committee will specifically consider the legislative/procedural measures regulating utilisation of Government/Community/Panchayat wastelands in non-forest areas and questions relating to their

availability for periods appropriate for their development and use of different types of land based activities including the terms and conditions and safeguards necessary for protecting the interests of local communities particularly members of the weaker sections of society.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Discussions with financial institutions are ongoing and will remain a continuous process. Discussions relate to implementation of the scheme of Margin Money Assistance under which central assistance was available for tree plantation/afforestation through the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) to the public sector Undertakings/Companies/Individuals etc. The funding pattern provided for, envisaged atleast 50% of the project cost as bank loan and the balance to be equally shared between National Wasteland Development Board (NWDB) and the promotor agency, restricting National Wasteland Development Board's share upto 25% of the project cost. The scheme is now under revision in view of the suggestions received by the Department so far.

Violation of Statutory Provisions by Companies

*237. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTINAN:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies which violated the statutory provisions by making investments and loans in excess of permitted limits in the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the names of the companies and the nature of violation together with their details;

(c) whether any legal action has been initiated in the past against these companies, if so, the details thereof indicating the stage in which the case is presently pending and also the date on which the action has been initiated; and

(d) what steps are taken to see that such violations do not take place in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The information received so far is contained in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Prosecution proceedings are launched. This has deterrent effect.