

ing private contractors into the Defence factory; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c) The matter is being enquired, into.

Service conditions of Teachers in Ordnance Factory School, Ambajhari, Nagpur, Maharashtra

55. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a): whether it is a fact that a number of teachers, including ladies, are working in ordnance Factory school, Ambajhari, Nagpur, Maharashtra for several years without getting service security, proper pay scales, etc., and

(b) whether Government propose to review their cases and cause their regularisation along with other benefits; if so, what are the details thereof?

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THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) 16 teachers are engaged by the School, on an *ad hoc* basis, under a private arrangement. They are paid honourarium, under "self-help basis", which is purely a local arrangement for teaching students of classes beyond the authorised level. Being engaged under a private arrangement, they are not entitled to pay scales and other benefits admissible to the teachers in the employ of the government. However, their claims were adjudicated before the Central Administrative Tribunal and the matter is presently *sub judice*.

Appointments In the Executive Council and Advisory Council In Central University, Pondicherry

56. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons appointed so far in the Executive Council, and Advisory Council, in Central University, Pondicherry;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the posts in the Executive Council and the Advisory Council have not been filled up so far; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for delay in appointing members of the Executive Council and Advisory Council of the said University?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) to (c) According to Statute 11 of the Statutes of Pondicherry University, the Executive Council consists of fifteen members of whom fourteen are in place. One position which is to be filled in from among the Directors, is vacant; since the posts of three Directors provided for in the Act are vacant.

There is no revision for any Advisory Council in the Act and Statutes of the Pondicherry University.

Felling of Green Trees in H.P., U.P. and J. and K.

57. SHRI SHABBIR AHMED SALARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments have not yet imposed a ban on the felling of green trees in disregard of the directive of the late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi, issued in July, 1984 to Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) what are the details of said directive; and

(c) What steps Government would take to persuade these State Governments to stop the felling of green trees from the forests in the interest of natural environment, ecology, hydrology, wildlife and tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Government of Himachal Pradesh, Uttar

Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir have taken the following measures to reduce felling of green trees in the Himalayan forests:

(i) Uttar Pradesh—Felling of green trees have been stopped above 1000 metres elevation in hilly areas.

(ii) Himachal Pradesh—No commercial green fellings are being carried out.

(iii) Jammu and Kashmir—Felling of green trees has been reduced, especially in hilly areas and places of tourist interest.

(b) The following directives were issued in June, 1964 to the States in the Himalayan Region;

(i) In areas outside Reserved Forests complete ban on green and commercial fellings be imposed till the State Government have identified the sensitive areas, and Management Plans/Schemes have been compiled for their scientific management on priority basis.

(ii) In Reserved Forests areas also, moratorium on green and commercial fellings should be imposed till a Committee constituted by State Government with representatives of the Central Government has examined and reviewed all Working Plans to identify sensitive areas and taken measures for their protection.

(iii) Environmental Conservation should be given due importance while framing the prescriptions of these Management Plans, (Working Plans).

(iv) The ban or moratorium should, however, be subject to maintenance of customary rights of the people, especially the poor with regard to supply of fuelwood for bonafide domestic use.

(c) The National Forest Policy, 1988 states that in the hills and in mountainous regions, the aim should

be to maintain two-thirds of the area under such cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-system.

Construction of a Tunnel through Zojila Pass in J. and K.

58. SHRI SHABBIR AHMED SALARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir remains cut off for eight months in a year from the rest of the State due to heavy snowfall on the Zojila pass which poses a serious danger to the defence of that region, besides causing grave hardships to the people of that region; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to construct a tunnel in the manner in which a tunnel connecting Ladakh with Himachal Pradesh is being constructed?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Adequate stocking of essential goods and other measures are taken to reduce the hardship to the people of that region in the winter season.

(b) No, Sir.

Waste Land in the Country

59. SHRI SHABBIR AHMED SALARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total area of the wasteland in our country, statewise, as per the surveys conducted recently;

(b) whether any plan has been finalised for afforestation of waste land in the country; and

(c) if no plan has been formulated, what are the reasons; therefore; and