

Para 6 of the Department of Personnel and Training O.M. No. 14014/6/86-Estt. (D) dated 30th June, 1987. It has been decided that the lower age limit will, however, be 18 years.

(c) Subject to the above concessions, it is open to the appointing authority to subject a candidate for compassionate appointment to a test or interview if the same is provided for in the recruitment rules of the post.

### Siachen Issue

4410. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any progress has been made to resolve the Siachen issue with Pakistan ;

(b) whether any talks were held with Pakistan in May, 1988 ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) to (c) : Three rounds of Official level talks have so far been held between the Governments of India and Pakistan to discuss the Siachen issue. In the third round of official level talks between the Defence Secretaries of India and Pakistan held at Islamabad from 18th to 20th May, 1988, the two sides considered certain specific proposals and agreed to examine these further to seek a peaceful solution of this issue, in accordance with the Simla Agreement.

It was also agreed that the next round of talks would be held at New Delhi during August-September, '88, on mutually convenient dates.

### Committee on Environment and Forests etc.

4411. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Committee has been set up by the Central Government on environment, forests, and wastelands development for the formulation of the Eighth Five Year Plan ; and

(b) if, so what are the terms of reference of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Yes, Sir, Planning Commission has set up a Steering Group of Environment, Forests and Wastelands Development for the formulation of 8th five year plan.

(b) The terms of reference of the Committee are given below :

(1) To recommend a policy framework for activities in the areas of environment, ecology, forestry, wildlife and wastelands development for the Eighth Five Year Plan (1990-95) taking into account the progress made in the implementation of the Seventh Plan programmes. Special focus will need to be placed on aspects relating to :—

(i) Research and development ;

(ii) Scientific management approaches ;

(iii) Peoples participation ;

(iv) Role of voluntary agencies ;

(v) Education/awareness ;

(vi) Protection of critical (endangered) ecosystems ;

(vii) Legislative/regulatory measures (Environment Protection Act