

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

(EPA); -Forest 'Act; Control in usage of hazardous chemicals, pesticide use—monitoring etc.).

(viii) Low cost environmental protection measures (to ensure development in harmony with environment).

(ix) Special programmes; such as Ganga Action Plan etc.

(x) Pollution control ;

(xi) Management of the " Commons".

(2) To review and assess the actual progress and achievements/shortfalls of the 7th Plan vis-a-vis the targets.

(3) To review the existing organisational structures/systems set for implementation of programme in these sectors.

(4) To identify areas of high priority keeping in view the Plan objectives relating to socio-economic development of the country.

(5) To ensure environmental protection and conservation, forestry development and reclamation of the wastelands through appropriate packages of technology, services and other policies.

(6) To evolve a sustainable land water use plan based on the classification of land into the following three major categories :

(i) Conservation areas ;

(ii) Restoration areas.

(iii) Sustainable intensification areas.

The aim should be to meet on a sustainable basis the needs for food, fuel, water, energy and indus-

7. To suggest linkages with other programmes and mechanisms strengthening the linkages bet-

ween the Central and State Level organisations.

8. To give special consideration to important fragile ecosystems such as Himalayas, Islands, Westlands, Tropical moist forests arid Cold and Hot Deserts.

9. To consider the decade profiles/reports from specific working groups in the areas of environment, forestry and wastelands development; and to integrate the programmes and priorities of these working groups with the national objectives and priorities.

10. To recommend financial requirements for these sectors ensuring the concept of zero based budgeting for the five year plan period.

Occupation of Private building by the Pay and Accounts Office, Department of Legal Affairs

4412. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Pay and Accounts Office attached to Department of Legal Affairs, Government of India is occupying about 1200 sq. ft. area in a private building in Connaught Circus, New Delhi, since 1974 and paying a monthly rent of Rs. 4135/- p.m.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per Directorate of Estate policy guidelines on increase in rent by Government Offices occupying private premises, twenty five percent increase is to be allowed by Government every five year ; and

(c) if so, by when Government proposes to revise the rent of above premises and make payment of arrears to the concerned owners since 1979 onwards?