

(b) The necessity of maintaining communal harmony and public order has been time and again stressed on the State Governments. Suggestions have been made to them to streamline the administrative and intelligence machinery and for measures like arrest of anti-social elements, search and seizure for the recovery of arms and ammunition and action against the elements inciting communalism. Central forces have also been made available to the States as and when requests for the same are made. Apart from this, timely alerts are sounded and guidance and advice provided as and when required. A detailed set of guidelines for effective control of communal violence which was reviewed and revised in 1985 has also been circulated amongst all the State Governments.

2. It is also in this context that the 15-Point Programme of the former Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi was commended to the State Governments. The re-constituted National Integration Council will also *inter-alia* suggest ways and means to promote communal harmony in the country.

(c) Achievement of communal harmony is not a one time exercise and the Government's policies are *inter-alia* aimed at achieving all round communal amity and prevention of communal violence.

Setting up of Heavy Water Plants

496 SHRI GANESHWAR KUSUM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up some Heavy Water Plants during the Seventh Five Year Plan period,

(b) if so, what is the number thereof; and

(c) which places have been identified for location of such plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Only one Heavy Water Plant is proposed to be set up at Hazira in Gujarat during the 'ith Plan.

Memoranda and Resolution by Government Employees for Repeal of Article 310 and Second Proviso to Article 311(2)

497. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received memoranda and resolutions from different trade unions of Government employees in the country and also from other trade unions for repeal of Article 310 and second proviso to Article 311(2) of the Constitution in view of the recent judgement of the Supreme Court in the matter; and

(b) if so, what steps Government contemplate to take in the matter to safeguard the interest of Government employees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGRTI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After a careful consideration of the judgement of the Supreme Court, Government are of the view that any apprehension of insecurity of tenure of

service for Government servants arising out of this judgement is due to an inadequate appreciation of the various aspects of the judgement. Article 310 does not confer unfettered powers on the President or the Governor. The pleasure of President/Governor under Article 310 is exercisable subject to other express provisions of the Constitution, including Article 311, which provide valuable protection to the civil servants in the matter of their tenure of service. Further, the judgement clarifies the correct parameters of the Constitutional protection granted to the Government servants under Article 311(2) in the matter of dismissal, removal or reduction in rank and does not in any way alter abridge the constitutional guarantee available to them in the matter of tenure of employment. While explaining the scope of the exceptions to Article 311(2) enumerated in the second proviso to the Article itself, the Supreme Court has also spelt out clearly the guiding principles to be followed by the competent authority, when action is taken under any of the three clauses of the aforesaid second proviso. The judgement does not take away the right of the aggrieved Government servant to invoke departmental remedies and seek judicial review in appropriate cases. Government have also issued suitable guidelines to all administrative authorities based on the judgement of Supreme Court.

Percentage of forest area of the country

498. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the percentage of the forest area of the country to the total area at the time of independence of the country and what is the present percentage;

(b) whether there has been a decrease in the forest area; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures are being taken to increase the forest area and maintain the ecological balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Statistics of recorded forest area of the entire country are available since 1951 only. The percentage of the recorded forest area to the total geographical area then and now are 21.84 and 22.73 respectively. The survey conducted recently through remote sensing however shows that the actual forest area in the country is substantially lower.

(c) The following measures are being taken to increase the forest area, enrich the forest cover and thereby maintain the ecological balance:—

(1) Strict enforcement of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 to minimize diversion of forest land to non-forest uses.

(2) Strict enforcement of Indian Forest Act, 1927 and of various other enactments to prevent unauthorised felling of trees.

(3) Enlisting people's co-operation for developing and improving forest wealth through setting up of the National Wastelands Development Board.

(4) Increased afforestation efforts.

(5) Establishment of decentralised nurseries to provide easy availability of seedlings.

सीमावर्ती राज्यों में अनधिकृत रूप से रहने वाले व्यक्ति

499. श्री रामचन्द्र बिक्रम : क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश के सीमावर्ती राज्यों जैसे— असम, पंजाब, गुजरात, राजस्थान तथा