

(b) whether Government had held any discussions with the NGOs, State Governments etc., if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely time by which amendments would be made in the Act, for the sake of visually-impaired and physically challenged?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT): (a) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Sudha Kaul was set up by the Central Government on 30.01.2010 consisting of experts in disability sector, representatives of various stakeholders, Central Ministries, State Governments, Non-Governmental Organizations etc. to prepare a draft legislation in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) to replace the existing Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) (PwD) Act, 1995.

(b) Before submitting its report alongwith the draft Bill on 30.06.2011, the said Committee held meetings that included National Consultation with Civil Society representatives and consultation with Legal Experts; and State Consultation in 28 States and two Union Territories across the Country to seek the views of Stakeholders. The Ministry placed the draft Bill in public domain in its website inviting comments/suggestions of the general public. Thereafter extensive consultations were held with Central Ministries/Departments, State Governments and UTs.

(c) The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 07.02.2014. Subsequently, certain Disability Associations expressed their views for making changes in the said Bill. The Government also gave Notice for moving amendments to the Bill, but these amendments could not be moved as Parliament had adjourned *sine die*. Meanwhile the Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee for examination and report.

Time-frame for enactment of the proposed legislation dealing with various disabilities including physical and visual impairments cannot be envisaged at this stage.

#### **Non-Government members in NBWL panel**

\*331. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Board for Wild Life (NBWL) under the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 has been reconstituted without the mandatory non-Government members in the panel;

(b) if so, the details of the newly constituted Board and the mandatory number of Board members; and

(c) the reasons for reducing the number of non-Government members in the panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per Section 5A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the National Board for Wild life (NBWL) has 47 members with the Prime Minister in the Chair. The Minister in charge of the Ministry of Environment and Forests in the Central Government is the Vice-Chairperson and the Director Wildlife Preservation as the Member Secretary. The NBWL also includes five representatives of Non Governmental Organizations and ten persons nominated by the Central Government from amongst eminent conservationists, ecologists and environmentalists.

The NBWL was re-constituted in 2014 *vide* Gazette Notification No. 1886 (E) dated 22nd July 2014 and No. 2304 (E) dated 11th September 2014 with the following members:

**Members of Parliament:**

- (i) Dr. Jyoti Dhurve, Lok Sabha
- (ii) Shri Dushyant Singh, Lok Sabha
- (iii) Dr. M.S. Gill, Rajya Sabha.

**Representatives of Non-Government Organizations:**

- (i) Gujarat Ecological Education and Research (GEER) Foundation, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- (ii) World Wildlife Fund for Nature-India, New Delhi.
- (iii) Aranyak, Guwahati, Assam.
- (iv) Nature Conservation Society, Jharkhand.
- (v) Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

**Eminent conservationists, ecologists and environmentalists:**

- (i) Prof. Raman Sukumar
- (ii) Dr. H.S. Singh
- (iii) Shri V.B. Sawarkar
- (iv) Shri S.S. Bisht

- (v) Dr. P.S. Easa
- (vi) Shri P.R. Sinha
- (vii) Dr. R.J. Rao
- (viii) Dr. Madan Mohan Pant
- (ix) Shri Rajendra P. Kerkar
- (x) Shri Lav Kumar Khachar

**State Governments:**

- (i) Andhra Pradesh
- (ii) Goa
- (iii) Rajasthan
- (iv) Uttarakhand
- (v) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- (vi) Punjab
- (vii) Kerala
- (viii) Gujarat
- (ix) Tripura
- (x) West Bengal
- (c) Does not arise.

**Cancellation of Secretary level talks with Pakistan**

\*332.SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the chronological details of events which led to cancellation of the India-Pakistan Secretary level talks slated to be held on the 25th August, 2014;
- (b) the reaction of Pakistan Government thereto;
- (c) whether Government considers various groups of J&K stakeholders in the bilateral talks between India and Pakistan on Kashmir issue, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of next steps Government is likely to take in this regard?