

the State Government concerned, require a Member of the Service to retire from Service in public interest, after giving such Member at least three month's previous notice in writing or three month's pay and allowances in lieu of such notice,-

- (i) after the review when such Member completes 15 years of qualifying Service; or
- (ii) after the review when such Member completes 25 years of qualifying Service or attains the age of 50 years, as the case may be; or
- (iii) if the review referred to in (i) or (ii) above has not been conducted, after the review at any other time as the Central Government deems fit in respect of such Member.

The above provisions have been reiterated from time to time and recently *vide* DoPT's O.M. No. 25013/02/2005-AIS-II dated 28.06.2012 and 03.08.2015, and O.M. No. 25013/1/2013-Estt.A-IV dated 11.09.2015.

(c) Disciplinary cases are conducted as per prescribed procedures. Normally, the details and monitoring of disciplinary cases is to be done by the respective cadre authorities. The Central Government has also from time to time been stressing on the need to complete disciplinary cases expeditiously and monitoring the same.

Installation of largest telescope in Ladakh

570. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Ladakh is going to be the site for world's largest telescope project;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard and the role of the Ministry in installing this telescope; and
- (c) what are the benefits that would accrue to the Ladakh region and the country as a whole by installation of this telescope?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) and (b) Sir, Hanle-Ladakh is one of the potential alternate sites for the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT), which will be the world's largest telescope. Mauna Kea in Hawaii, USA is the present site for the TMT Project. Due to a recent decision of the Supreme Court of Hawaii revoking the construction permit on procedural grounds, the construction work at this site is stalled. Efforts are being made by TMT authorities to resolve the matter which is expected to take some time. However, keeping in view the huge investments and efforts involved in this project, alternate sites are being explored both in Northern

and Southern Hemispheres. Hanle, Ladakh is one of the potential alternate sites for this project which is being evaluated for hosting the telescope. India is a 10% partner in the project. The Ministry of Science and Technology, through Department of Science and Technology (DST) is funding this project in association with the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

(c) The construction phase of the project will last for 8-10 years followed by its installation. The telescope is expected to be operational for at least 50 years post-installation. This mega project requires a large number of work force and other resources. In case, Hanle, Ladakh is selected as the site for this project, some of these requirements may be met from the Ladakh region. It is expected that the project shall improve employment opportunities for the local people besides development of the region. TMT being the largest optical and infrared telescope in the Northern Hemisphere will strengthen the domestic programme of the country in this field and lead to several discoveries which will inspire future generations. The project will also help develop state-of-the-art high end technologies and expertise in the country.

Melting of Himalayan glaciers

571. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Himalayan glaciers are melting rapidly; if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(b) the impact of rapid melting of glaciers on the local area and the country;

(c) whether Government has conducted any study in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the outcome of the study along with the steps taken by Government to prevent further melting of Himalayan glaciers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) and (b) No Sir, Studies carried out by various scientific groups in the Himalayas have revealed that the Himalayan glaciers are retreating in general but not at a rapid pace. The rate of melting/recession varies from glacier to glacier depending on its topography and climatic variability of the region. However, the glaciers in the Eastern and Central part of Indian Himalaya are continuously retreating whereas some of the glaciers in Western part of Himalaya are reported to be advancing. There is no abnormal trend of melting documented during the last few decades.

(c) Does not arise.