

(a) whether it is a fact that on Tuesday, the 5th September, 1961, when Russia carried out its third nuclear test, seismograph at Shillong recorded an earthquake;

(b) if so, what was the intensity of the quake; and

(c) whether the level of radio-activity of the different parts of India has also been affected by the Russian tests; and

(d) if so, the estimated increase in the radio-activity in the different regions?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) and (b). It is understood that the seismographs at Shillong recorded a number of earth tremors on 5th September 1961, of which 2 were of significant intensity. An earthquake shock of moderate intensity with epicentre in Tadzakistan in U.S.S.R. was recorded at 11 hours 47 minutes. A second shock was recorded at 17 hours 17 minutes on the same day, the epicentre of which was at Kenai Peninsula in Alaska, U.S.A.

(c) and (d). There has been considerable increase in the level of radioactivity in the country recently. The estimated increase in the different regions of India is more or less of the same order. The atmospheric radioactivity has been estimated to have increased 3 to 30 times with occasional high levels showing increases of 50 to 200 times. The level of increase, however, does not present a significant danger to the public health.

Uranium in Madhya Pradesh

*222. { Shri Birendra Bahadur Singhji:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Geological Survey of India has indicated the possibility of the occurrence of uranium in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what is the extent of its quantity and classification of quality; and

(c) what further measures are being taken to ascertain the potentiality of the areas with these deposits (indicating areas)?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) to (c). Surface surveys carried out by the Atomic Minerals Division of the Department of Atomic Energy have indicated a few radioactive zones near Baghnadi village in the Drug District of Madhya Pradesh. Sub-surface investigations are in progress with a view to exploring in depth the continuation of radioactive zones and their underground configuration. The potentiality of the deposits can be assessed only after completion of these investigations.

Re-modelling of Tehar Village (Delhi)

*223. { Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3777 on the 8th September, 1961 and state:

(a) how far the scheme of remodelling the village Tehar, a refugee colony in Delhi, has since progressed; and

(b) how long would it take to complete the scheme?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) and (b). It is regretted that not much progress has been made in the matter. The Scheme will be executed by Delhi Municipal Corporation who have been informed that this Ministry is prepared to bear the proportionate expenditure required to implement the Scheme.