

earlier, the entire matter is under the consideration of the Government.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: As the hon. Minister rightly pointed out, there has to be a representative Government to have a dialogue as per the Punjab accord. The Congress party has boycotted the last election and until and unless the Congress party participates in the election process, there cannot be a representative Government in Punjab.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you asking this question to the party or the Government?

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: The Congress party always had a very strong representation in Punjab. That is why I would like to ask the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, that in the absence of participation of the Congress party in the last election, would the hon. Minister examine and decide whether the whole process has to be cancelled and fresh election ordered?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, the Congress party had boycotted the elections on the issue of secessionism.

That is why we are thinking in terms of having a dialogue with the leaders of the Opposition as to whether we can possibly think in terms of introducing a new factor in the Representation of People Act either by amendment to the Constitution or by amending the provisions of the Representation of People Act to see that secessionism is also one of the conditions. In fact, every candidate will have to announce that he does not believe in secessionism. So, that is one of the issues which is receiving the attention of the Government. We propose to discuss this issue also with the leaders of the Opposition.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Sir, there was a talk of erecting barbed wire fencing along the border, creating no man's land—one kilometre wide—along the border and destroying the centres along the Pakistan border where these militants get training, arms and ammunition. I would like to know about these three important points.

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Regarding the first part of your question about the barbed wire fencing, the fencing of 356

kilometres is complete and flood-lights on 382 kilometres have been provided to protect the border.

Regarding no man's land, at the moment, Government has not created no man's land as such.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: The third point was about destroying the centres along the Pakistan border.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has already answered.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBER JANARTHANAN: The Minister has mentioned in the written answer that efforts will be made to ensure that the misguided youths present in the ranks of the militants return to the mainstream of socio-economic activity and eschew violence and terrorism. But contrary to the answer, today, I find a headline 'Many Hindu boys join militants'. Easy money is one of the attractions for that.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Janarthanan, please ask the question.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBER JANARTHANAN: What are the new programmes of employment for the Punjab youths with adequate payment so that easy money cannot be an attraction to them to indulge in terrorism? *[Interruptions]*

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Recently, the new Governor has taken charge. The new Governor is chalking out a programme to provide employment for youths in Punjab.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 509.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya. They have written a letter saying that they will not put the question.

Then, Question No. 510.

[Translation]

Platinum Deposits in Nainpur

*510. **SHRI MOHANLAL JHIKRAM:** Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are huge deposits of Platinum near Nainpur in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the steps taken for its exploitation;

(c) whether any team of Mineral experts has been sent there;

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be sent; and

(e) whether the Government have declared this area as restricted area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

SHRI MOHANLAL JHIKRAM: Sir, I seek your protection: In reply to my question the hon. Minister said that the question does not arise. I would like to know the basis for this reply. Was there any survey or was any team sent there or has the hon. Minister simply said that such a question does not arise.

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: The Geological Survey of India conducted a survey in Nainpur in Mandla district during 1987-88 and 1989-90 and found only granite deposits there. There were no platinum deposits at that time in the area.

SHRI MOHANLAL JHIKRAM: Sir, will another survey be conducted through experts? The nearby Balaghat district has abundant deposits of copper, manganese and mica. May I know which other minerals are found in that area.

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: As far as platinum is concerned, the Indian Bureau of Mines has informed that there is no possibility of finding platinum deposits there. Atomic Minerals Department there has also done work in this direction and come to the conclusion that there are no platinum deposits in that particular area.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether platinum deposits were found at any other place in Madhya Pradesh during the survey.

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, this requires some time because information has to be sought from the Atomic Mineral Department.

Armed Battalions of States working under Union Government

*511. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Armed Battalions of various States working under the Union Government;

(b) whether some States Governments have apprised the Union Government of the difficulties being faced by them due to such deployment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which those Battalions are likely to be sent back to their respective States?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Union Government has sent 28 coys. of certain State Armed Police Battalions on deployment to various States/UTs in the Union.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Sir, the police forces in the States are facing an acute shortage of manpower. Till when will the Central Government go on borrowing manpower to meet this shortage and why are the battalions of C.R.P.F. and B.S.F. not being increased?

MR. SPEAKER: Is your question directed at the Central Government?

SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Till when will the Central Government go on borrowing manpower from the States to meet the shortage of manpower in the police forces? This creates a problem in the States because they are not able to mobilise enough manpower when the need arises. Why are the more battalions of C.R.P.F. and B.S.F. not being raised?

[English]

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Sir, the hon. Member must have slightly misunderstood the mechanism of providing forces to various States. If forces are required in a particular State,