

(b) if so, the issues discussed at the meeting; and

(c) the reaction of Government of India thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) to (c). Shri K. C. Pant, Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, held discussions with the representatives of the Andhra NGGOs on the 15th, 17th and 18th March, 1973, for ending the strike by NGGOs in Andhra. The strike by the Andhra NGGOs has since been called off. The Government welcome this step which will further help normalise the situation in the State

Use of Science and Technology for Removal of Regional Imbalance during Fifth Plan

7458. **SHRI S. N. MISRA:** Will the Minister of **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY** be pleased to state the special features of the schemes incorporated in the Fifth Five Year Plan to utilise Science and Technology for the removal of regional imbalance?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): One of the objectives of the Science and Technology Plan will be reduction of regional imbalances in the economic development of the country. With this end in view, special emphasis is being given in the improved utilisation of locally available raw materials and other natural resources in backward areas. The S and T Plan is still under formulation and it is too early to give details of schemes.

Activities of Mizo Hostiles

7459. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Will the Minister of **HOME AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) what further steps have been taken to check the activities of the hostile Midos in Mizoram;

(b) whether they have been helped by the foreign powers; and

(c) if so, which are those powers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a). The entire Union Territory of Mizoram has, by a notification issued by the Administrator on the 1st March, 1973, been declared as a "disturbed area" for a further period of six months under the Assam Disturbed Areas Act, 1955. The Mizoram Administration have also tightened security measures with a view to preventing an increase in such underground rebel activity.

(b) and (c). The House had been informed of the assistance given to the underground rebel movement by Pakistan, prior to the emergence of Bangladesh.

Treatment of Workers of Political Parties as Political Prisoners in Jails

7460. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Will the Minister of **HOME AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether political workers belonging to various opposition parties are not treated as political prisoners in jails;

(b) if so, whether any suitable instructions have been issued to the various States for treating these political workers as political prisoners; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a). Jail rules of most of the States do not provide for separate classification, as