

(d) whether the data collected by the earlier teams has been analysed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ; ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The fourth Indian Antarctic Expedition Team consisting of 83 members including 22 scientists led by Dr. B.B. Bhattacharya of the Indian School of Mines is presently there. The team left Goa on 4.12.84 and landed on Antarctica on 28.12.84. It is expected to return to India by the end of March 1985.

(c) Investigations started in the scientific disciplines during the previous three expeditions are being continued so that a fuller knowledge is gained on the icy continent from the information obtained year after year. However, the emphasis during the fourth expedition will be on geophysical surveys for determining the mineral potential of the area.

(d) The data collected during the first expedition have been analysed and published. Samples, data and material collected during the second expedition have also been processed and the second scientific report is under print. The information obtained during the third expedition is being analysed.

Firing Across Bangladesh Border

229. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether incidents of firing from across the Bangladesh border on our civilians and defence personnel are showing an increasing trend in the recent past ;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard ;

(c) whether any protests have been

lodged with Bangladesh Government ; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMAI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) There were two incidents of firing from across Bangladesh border in January 1985. But this cannot be termed as an increasing trend of firing as these firings were resorted to by Bangladesh Rifles to scare away the civilians and BSF.

(b) to (d). As has been done in these two incidents, in every such case BSF authorities lodge a protest with their counterparts in Bangladesh and flag meetings are held between BSF and BDR to sort out the matter and to defuse tension for maintenance of peace and order.

Change in Sports Policy

230. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any change in our sports policy is envisaged in the light of the country's poor performance in the recent past ;

(b) if so, what steps are envisaged to encourage deserving players and sportsmen to provide adequate training and practice facilities and to pick up and nurse the talented and promising players and sportsmen right from the school stage ; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide pension to players and sportsmen of international repute ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The new National Sports Policy in the shape of a Government Resolution, which was finalised recently, has been already laid on the Table of the Sabha