

(a) whether the Assam agitation leaders have softened their stand and have agreed for disenfranchisement of illegal immigrants between 1961-71 ;

(b) if so, whether this attitude of Assam agitators has improved the prospects of agreement in regard to settlement of Assam issue ;

(c) if so, whether any solution to the problem has been reached ; and

(d) if not, by what time the final agreement is likely to be reached ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (d). Informal discussions have been held between representatives of the Government and the agitation leaders. While no specific solutions have emerged, Government are hopeful that solutions acceptable to all concerned will be found at an early date.

Declaration of no Man's Land Along Indo-Pak Borders

91. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to declare as no man's land the 500 metre stretch along the Indo-pak border in the State of Punjab to check the movement of extremists ;

(b) if so, whether the three districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Ferozepur will be covered under this scheme ;

(c) if so, whether barbed-wire fencing is also being considered as one of the steps for checking this ; and

(d) what are the other methods being considered ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (d). No such proposal is under Government's consideration at present.

"Clearance to Teluge Ganga Project"

92. SHRI N. VENKATARATNAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telugu Ganga project aimed at supplying drinking water to Tamil Nadu and irrigation facilities in Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh has been cleared by the Union Government ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) An Expert Group has been constituted by the Department to visit the site and collect necessary additional data for a realistic environmental impact assessment. The project will be considered after the necessary data has been received, collated and analysed.

Guidelines for Setting up of Projects

93. SHRI N. VENKATARATNAM : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the guidelines for the Union Government to take up project for itself in the states ;

(b) number of such projects taken up by Union Government in other States, and the cost thereof ;

(c) number of each project requested by Government of Andhra Pradesh to be taken up by Union Government ; and

(d) whether Government have taken them up ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) The Central Government takes up projects in sectors that fall within its jurisdiction (Central or concurrent list) generally on the basis of develop-