

1	2	3	4
Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes	1227	1325	700
Water Supply	820	790	700
House Sites and Construction Assistance	225	200	175
Slum Improvement	400	429	250
Power	16335	14101	11600
Afforestation	39	27	480
Health	260	450	400
ICDS Blocks	500	436	350
Education	2341	2590	2000
Village and Small Scale Industry	1158	755	600
Total	29940	289845	23525

News-Item Captioned "More Tripura Area Disturbed"

6677. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item "More Tripura areas disturbed" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" of 17th April, 1985;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to bring more areas affected by extremist activities under the Disturbed Areas Act and if so, details thereof; and

(c) what permanent measures are proposed to be taken to deal with extremists in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The matter is being examined by the Government. In order to deal with the extremists and to maintain law and order, security measures have been tightened, combing operations in the

affected areas have been taken up and strict vigil is being maintained. The strength of security forces in the extremist affected areas has been augmented where necessary.

Persons below Poverty Line as per National Sample Survey 1983

6678. SHRIMATI SUNDERWATI NAWAL PRABHAKAR : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons below poverty line as per the 1983 Survey of the National Sample Survey Organisation;

(b) how far this number varies from the number shown in the mid-term appraisal of Sixth Plan; and

(c) in case there is wide variations, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) The results of the Household Consumer Expenditure Survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation in 1983 have not yet been finalised. It is, therefore, not possible to

indicate at this stage the number of persons below the poverty line as per the National Sample Survey Organisation Survey of 1983.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

U. S. Propaganda about Area Along Siachin Glacier Near Ladakh

6679. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any map published in United States of America show the area along the Siachin Glacier sector near Ladakh to be belonging to Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to counter the false United States propaganda ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). Certain maps published by US Department of State have shown incorrect depiction of the line of control in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Government has taken up the matter with the US Government on various occasions.

Proposal for Separate Deptt. of Non-Resident Indians

6680. SHRI P. A. ANTONY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a separate department to look after the interests of non-resident Indians; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). A Division has been set up to coordinate work relating to Non-resident Indians.

Vayudoot Service between Calcutta and Darjeeling and Digha

6681. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing number of tourists in Darjeeling and Digha of West Bengal;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce a Vayudoot service from Calcutta to Darjeeling and Digha to cope with the problem; and

(c) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) to (c). Darjeeling and Digha do not have aerodromes and are at a distance of approx. 30 Kms and 78 Kms from Bagdogra and Calcutta respectively, which already have adequate airlinks. There is no proposal at present to link Darjeeling and Digha with a Vayudoot service.

[Translation]

"Thar Desert"

6682. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Thar Desert is spreading as per the views of the expert on environmental protection of Thar Desert and the Advisor to the U. N. Environmental Programme;

(b) if so, whether this desert is spreading due to the felling of desert trees by the villagers and the absence of fodder arrangements there;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to make fuel wood and fodder available to the villagers at cheap rates; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) and (b). According to the studies of the Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur, no conclusive scientific evidence is available to show that the Thar Desert is spreading. The opinions differ primarily because of terminological controversy. The studies, however, underline the fact that xeric conditions within the Desert have accentuated due to over exploitation of vegetation and land resources for meeting fuel and fodder requirements.

(c) No, Sir,

(d) It is not feasible.