

ment regarding India's request for procurement of Super Computers.

New Forest Policy

769. SHRI RAM DHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the new forest policy has been finalised ;
- (b) if so what are its details ; and
- (c) if not, the reason of the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Extensive consultations with different Departments and Ministries of the Central Government had to be undertaken. The draft of the new policy has been referred to state governments and union territories, for their views.

Talks with Bangladesh on Influx of Tribal Refugees into Tripura

770. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is true that the issue of large influx of tribal refugees into Tripura from the Chittagong Hill Tracts has been taken up with the Bangladesh High Commissioner in New Delhi ; and

(b) if so, the latest position about the said issue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). On 5th May, 1986 the matter was taken up with Bangladesh High Commissioner in New Delhi and he was asked to convey our concern to his Government and request them to arrange for immediate return of the refugees. Also on 23rd May, 1986 Foreign Secretary spoke to the Bangladesh High Commissioner about the continued influx and delay in repatriation of refugees. During the recent visit of Bangladesh President, the matter was

taken up with him by the Home Minister. He has assured the Home Minister that all the tribal refugees will be taken back.

Uranium from Sea

771. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to mine uranium from sea on the lines of oil and gas exploration ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Families brought above poverty line under 20-Point Programme

772. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of families lifted above the poverty line so far under the 20-Point Programme and the number of families proposed to be lifted above the poverty line during Seventh Five Year Plan ;

(b) whether data prepared at the block level in this regard are not relevant to reality and if so, whether Government propose to get the position re-examined ; and

(c) the measures being taken to lift the poor above poverty line ?

THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY) : (a) Information about the number of families lifted above poverty line so far under the 20-Point Programme cannot be ascertained separately from the impact on poverty of overall economic policies and programmes. During the Seventh Plan the

number of persons below the poverty line is expected to go down from 272.7 million in 1984-85 to 210.8 million in 1989-90.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The overall strategy of plan and the pattern of growth is designed to contribute to a reduction in the poverty ratio. A number of poverty alleviation programme like Integrated Rural Development Programme, National Rural Employment Programme, Rural Landless Employment Guarantee programme are continued aiming at increasing the income of the poor by creation of assets and generating employment. Further, the programmes like Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Development Programme, Minimum Needs Programme emphasis on small and marginal farmers, strategy for village and small industries etc. will also help in the reduction of poverty.

[English]

Construction of Wall along International Border with Pakistan

773. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to construct a wall all along the international border with Pakistan is being considered ;

(b) if so, details thereof ; and

(c) the decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Wasteland Development and Social Forestry Scheme for West Bengal

774. DR. PHULRENU GUHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated for wasteland development and social forestry scheme during the year 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 for West Bengal ;

(b) whether the amounts allocated during 1984-85 and 1985-86 were spent fully ; and

(c) the special measures being taken to implement the schemes during 1986-87 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) The information is indicated in the statement given below.

(b) No, Sir. The allocated amount had not been spent fully during the years 1984-85 and 1985-86.

(c) The following measures have been taken to implement the schemes to promote wasteland development activities during the year 1986-87 :—

(i) The allocation for the social forestry component under NREP and RLEGP has been increased from 20% to 25%. The States have been directed to utilise the increased allocation of 5% for promoting decentralised peoples' nurseries.

(ii) The following new Centrally sponsored schemes for promoting wastelands development along with allocation therefor, have been communicated to the State Government for implementation in 1986-87. Another scheme—“Establishment of Silvipastural Farms” is also being taken up :—

1. Scheme for Rural Fuelwood Plantation and afforestation of Eco-Sensitive Areas in Non-Himalayan Regions.

2. Decentralised Peoples' Nurseries.

(iii) Action Plan for wastelands development has already been circulated for implementation to all the State Governments including West Bengal wherein emphasis has been laid on increasing people's participation substantially in the wastelands development programme.