

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) and (b). A non-commissioned officer of the IAF has been arrested under the Official Secrets Act and the case is under investigation. It will not be in public interest to disclose any further information.

Development of Handicraft Industry in Tripura

1544. SHRI KIRTI BIKRAM DEB BURMAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programme for the development of handicraft industry in Tripura during the Sixth Five Year Plan 1978-83 has been drawn out by Tripura Government and submitted to Central Government and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the nature and extent of Central assistance, if any, sought for the implementation of this programme; and

(c) the present yearly production of handicrafts in that State, the targets of production laid down and the additional production capacity sought to be created in that State, and the number of job opportunities likely to be created as a result of implementation of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b). Proposal/programme for the development of handicraft industry in Tripura during the Sixth Five Year Plan 1978-83 have not yet been received from the State Government. However, for the year 1978-79, an allocation of Rs. 6 lakhs has been made by the Planning Commission for the development of handicrafts in the State against the proposal for Rs. 9 lakhs submitted by the State Government.

(c) No realistic information is available at present. However, the present yearly production is estimated around Rs. 6 lakhs.

Bangladesh Infiltrators in North-Eastern Region

1545. SHRI KIRTI BIKRAM DEB BURMAN:

SHRI P. A. SANGMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made about the latest position of Bangladesh (East Pakistan) infiltrators in Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya and other areas in the North-Eastern region;

(b) if so, the total number of such infiltrators in each State in that region; and

(c) the steps being taken to oust them from these border areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) and (b). For variety of reasons illegal infiltration has been going on since partition from erstwhile East Pakistan and later on from Bangladesh into the North-Eastern States. On account of their ethnic similarity it is difficult to trace out these illegal migrants and accordingly this is not possible to know the exact number of such persons present in each of the State in the North-Eastern region, nor is such an assessment possible. However no reports have been received indicating that there was any marked increase in the number of infiltrators entering India.

(c) Patrolling along the international borders has been intensified and strict vigilance is kept to check any infiltration from across the borders. As and when the infiltrators are intercepted or detected, they are pushed back.