

(d) if so, the decision of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL) (a) and (b). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). The nature of technical difficulties have not been spelt out. However, before availing the benefit of Central pension as a freedom fighter, every applicant has to fulfil the eligibility conditions laid down in the Freedom Fighters Pension Scheme 1972. In case such a person is unable to produce acceptable evidence, such as co-prisoner's certificate. After pension is sanctioned, if any person finds any difficulty in actual drawal of his pension through the treasury, his representation will lie to the district authorities concerned.

The responsibility for the grant and execution of relief and rehabilitation facilities to the freedom fighters is primarily that of the State Governments.

Communication Facilities in Tribal Border Areas

6106. **SHRI KIRIT BIKRAM DEB BURMAN:** Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the observation made by the Prime Minister during his last visit of the North Eastern States that the lack of communication facilities was the main hurdle in the development of the backward tribal border areas of Meghalya, Mizoram, Manipur Arunachal and Nagaland, and special emphasis has been laid on road development in these States under their respective annual plans for 1979-80;

(b) if so, the financial provision made for such scheme in each of the State Annual Plans;

(c) the details of the scheme, indicating the length of additional roads to be laid; and

(d) the number and percentage of villages in each of these States not connected with roads as at present and how many of them would be provided with proper road connections under the annual plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI FAZLUR RAHMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Outlays for roads in 1979-80

	Rs. lakhs
Meghalaya	550
Mizoram	400
Manipur	557
Arunachal Pradesh	600
Nagaland	640

In addition to the above outlays, road programmes will be supplemented under NEC (Rs. 1000 lakhs) and Border Roads organisation.

	Kms.
Meghalaya	150
Mizoram	144
Manipur	160
Arunachal Pradesh	120
Nagaland	154

(d) Attempt is being made to collect the information.

Influx from Bangladesh to the Neighbouring States

6107. **SHRI CHITTA BASU:**
SHRI GANGA BHAKT SINGH:
SHRI GYANESHWAR PRASAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since considered it necessary and desirable to take up the issue of increasing numbers of Bangladeshi Nationals into the neighbouring States like Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya and West Bengal;

(b) whether a proposal of this nature has since been communicated to Government by N. E. C. (North Eastern Council); and

(c) if so, steps taken in this direction and result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) to (c). The Government of India has been seized of the problem. This matter was discussed in this House on the 19th March, 1979, in response to a Calling Attention Notice and was also the subject matter of a Starred Question No. 59 which was answered in this House on the 22nd February, 1979. For variety of reasons illegal infiltration has been going on since the partition of the country from Bangladesh erstwhile East Pakistan) into the neighbouring States like Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya and West Bengal. To consider adequacy of existing measures and to examine what further steps are necessary to check infiltration, the Chairman of the North Eastern Council held a meeting on the 14th February, 1979, with the Chief Ministers/Ministers concerned of the North Eastern States as well as the Administrators of the Union Territories of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. Suggestions which emerged out of the meeting are under examination.

Government of India has, however, being taking steps to check such infiltration. Patrolling along the international borders has been intensified and strict vigilance is being maintained along our borders. As and when infiltrators are intercepted or detected, they are pushed back. Certain administrative measures including the application of the

Foreigners Protected Areas orders 1958 and the Foreigners Restricted Areas Order, 1963, has been taken to check illegal infiltration into the States. The Government of India have also sanctioned some staff for Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal and Tripura for locating, identifying and deporting the Bangladesh infiltrators. The matter has also been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh.

Integral Articulated Bus-Ikarus 281

6108. SHRI S. S. SOMANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an integral articulated bus-Ikarus 281 has recently been handed over to the Delhi transport Corporation for evaluation tests;

(b) if so, whether it has already undergone similar tests in Bombay for a fortnight; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI): (a) to (c). Trials were conducted of the IKARUS Integral coach Model-281 by the Bombay Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking and the Delhi Transport Corporation. In Delhi the trials were conducted in the second fortnight of February 1979 and in Bombay in the second fortnight of January 1979. Tests are in progress with reference to several parameters like passenger earnings, operational and maintenance costs fuel consumption, cost, profit and passenger conveniences. Tests are still to be carried out in Chandigarh, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Madras, after which it would be possible for the requisite data to be collected for the evaluation of the vehicle under operational conditions prevailing in India.