

23. The rural populations in India should be induced to accept modern scientific and technological innovations for better and proper utilization of energy.

24. Engineering expertise should be pooled and tied up with price plant manufacturers for standardisation of plants and equipment which may reduce lead time and optimise investment.

25. State Electricity Boards should have participation at the Central policy making level. All levels of the power system like the manufacturers, generation units, maintenance, distribution and transmission wings should have the feel of the whole problem for the smooth running of the plants.

26. Rural electrification should be properly encouraged and small plants for rural areas should be encouraged for reducing transmission loss.

27. Research and Development on Fuel Cells for electricity generation be given top priority.

Scheme for integrated multi-channel telecommunication system for Police, Para-Military forces of North-Eastern Region

1105. SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for integrated multi-channel telecommunication system for the Police and Para-military forces of North-Eastern Region has been approved by the Government of India;

(b) whether the said scheme is awaiting implementation for want of necessary funds;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the licence issued for the said scheme is to expire by September, 1980; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to go ahead with the project and make available necessary funds for immediate implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):
(a) The scheme has been accepted in principle by the Government of India.

(b) to (d). The scheme was accepted by the Ministry of Communication for a period of two years. It will be due for review after September, 1980. No licence has yet been issued. In the meantime, certain technical formalities are under process. The question of provision of funds is also under consideration.

Foreigners in Assam

1106. SHRI P. J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the definition of foreigners in Assam and their actual number?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): Under the definition contained in Section 2(a) of the Foreigners Act, 1946, which extends to the whole of India, "foreigner" means a person who is not a citizen of India. No reliable information about the number of foreigners in Assam is available.

Energy Crisis

1107. SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any expert study has been made as to how far the Atomic Power Plants in Tarapur near Bombay and Kota in Rajasthan have helped in solving the energy crisis in these States;

(b) whether it is a fact that some environmentalists in foreign countries have started a systematic campaign against further expansion of power generation from nuclear plants; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction to the working of the plants especially in the light of the recent break-down of Kota Atomic Plant and mishap to the Tarapur Plant resulting from the