

Juang Tribe

4260. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total population of the 'Juang Tribe' in the country ;

(b) the total population of such people in Keonjhar district of Orissa ;

(c) whether the strength of this tribe is decreasing day by day ;

(d) whether Government have any proposal to save these dying tribals from Malaria and poverty ; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to strengthen their economy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWARANA) :

(a) 21,890 in 1961 and 24,384 in 1971 Census.

(b) 9,768 in 1961 and 10,881 in 1971 census in Keonjhar District of Orissa.

(c) The census figure do not indicate decreasing numbers.

(d) Medical facilities have been provided in Juangpirh area of Keonjhar District.

(e) Keonjhar TDA functioned from 1974 to 1979. One of its functions was to foster socio-economic development of the Juang tribe. The Juang Development Agency, set up in March, 1978 for the purpose specifically, has been continuing its work among the Juang.

Exploration for Atomic Minerals

4261. SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the progress made so far in achieving self-sufficiency in Uranium and other atomic minerals by exploring the entire country by geological teams ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI C.P.N. SINGH) : The intensive surveys conducted by the Atomic Minerals Division of the Department of Atomic Energy in favourable terrains throughout the Country have resulted in proving of adequate uranium and other raw material resources to meet the requirements of the nuclear power programme currently envisaged. The surveys and exploration

have resulted in identification of a number of new uranium provinces in Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and the North Eastern Region, in addition to the already known Singhbhum Thrust Belt in Bihar, where at Jaduguda a uranium mine supported by a mill with a capacity to treat 1000 tonnes ore per day is already in production since 1968. The Department of Atomic Energy's requirement of tantalum is being successfully met by columbite-tantalite ore being produced departmentally. Survey and assessment of the beach sand deposits have indicated self-sufficiency in thorium. The Atomic Minerals Division has also stockpiled sufficient quantities of beryl ore through departmental production and procurement from private sources in the country.

Funds for research on Solar Energy

4262. SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have allocated funds for doing research on solar energy; and

(b) if so, what is the amount and the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI C.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) In the current financial year Rs. 2.25 crores have been allocated by Government for research on new and renewable energies. The Programme on New and Renewable Energy Sources under the Department of Science and Technology is to be given a major impetus during the Sixth Five Year Plan period; an outlay of at least Rs. 50 crores has been indicated for this purpose to cover Research and Development prototype fabrication and demonstration programmes. Research efforts so far have led to the generation of considerably greater basic scientific and technological understanding and capabilities relating to renewable energies, and in particular, solar thermal, solar photovoltaic and biogas technologies, for a wide variety of applications, such as water heating, crop drying, water pumping, cold storage, desalination, lighting and cooking in the domestic sector and low grade heat required in industry. In all these areas, demonstration and field trial programmes have been initiated to pave the way for large-scale commercialization and utilization.