

Staff working in Tripura Oil Exploration Areas

1499. SHRI BIREN DUTTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of staff working in Tripura Oil Exploration Areas ; and

(b) whether they have been provided with suitable accommodation and working conditions there ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) At present, 120 employees, including officers, are working in the Tripura Project.

(b) the staff have been provided with suitable accommodation and working conditions prevailing there are reported to be satisfactory.

Number of Votes in Wards of Ambala Cantonment Board

1500. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of votes in different Wards in Ambala Cantonment Board (Haryana) is extremely unequal ;

(b) whether the Ambala Cantonment Board has demanded reorganisation of the Wards to have equal number of votes vide its Resolution No. 9 dated the 13th October, 1970 ;

(c) if so, the decision of Government thereon ; and

(d) when the first elections of Ambala Cantonment Board will be held and whether the elections would be held on the basis of old or new wards ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM) : (a) The distribution of voters amongst the Wards is unequal, varying from 2877 to 8610.

(b) The Resolution No. 9 dated 13.10.70 does not contain any demand for re-organisation of Wards.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Next election would ordinarily be due before 28th September, 1971, but no final decision has been taken thereon.

12.16 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA IN AN EPIDEMIC FORM AMONG THE REFUGEES FROM BANGLA DESH

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGARHI (Bhubaneswar) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Planning to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :

“The reported outbreak of cholera in an epidemic form among the refugees from Bangla Desh and action taken by the Government to meet the situation.”

SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM (Tiruchirappalli) : On a point of order, Sir. This is not an epidemic in the ordinary course. This relates to the whole question of Bangla Desh. In my calling attention notice, I had drawn the attention of the Home Minister. I do not know how it got changed into Health Minister. I do not know whether it was done by your office. The House expects either the Prime Minister or the Defence Minister to answer it.

MR. SPEAKER : This is about the cholera epidemic and the Health Minister has to reply to it.

SHRI INDRAJEET GUPTA (Alipore) : The Prime Minister should at least be present here now, because she has returned from Calcutta.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : The question is not merely of cholera epidemic. The question is of law and order situation in West Bengal. After coming from Calcutta, the Prime Minister should make a statement here *suo motu* (Interruptions).....