

Burning of village by Hostile Mizos

856. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mizo hostiles completely burnt a row of about 20 houses in the regrouped village of Tlungvel, 30 miles from Aijal on the 5th January, 1968;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in December 1967 these hostiles burnt about 50 houses in Bumtlang regrouped village;

(c) whether it is also a fact that on both these occasions the hostiles had announced before setting the houses on fire that they were doing so to punish the villagers for not having paid the taxes to the outlawed Mizo National Front;

(d) if so, the preventive steps taken by Government to save these villages;

(e) the loss suffered on account of the fire; and

(f) the relief given to the fire victims?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) Mizo hostiles set fire to 18 houses of Tlungvel grouped centre in Mizo Hills District in the early hours of 6th January, 1968.

(b) On 7th December, 1967, a gang of hostiles opened fire at Bungtlang group centre and during the exchange of fire one hut caught fire, as a result of which 56 huts were gutted.

(c) There is no information of any such prior announcement. The hostiles were, however, intent on terrorising loyal villagers.

(d) Security arrangements in the grouped centres have been tightened. It is also proposed to arm selected volunteers from the grouped centres to strengthen security measures there and to provide a sense of confidence amongst the inhabitants of these centres.

(e) Facts are being ascertained.

(f) Immediate relief in the form of clothing, blankets, utensils, etc. valued at Rs. 100/- have been given at both Tlungvel and Bungtlang centres to each family affected by the fires. The gutted houses at Bungtlang have been completely re-built and those at Tlungvel are nearing completion. Free rations are being given to those who have lost their stocks of grains and arrangements are being made for free distribution of paddy seeds, etc. to the affected families.

Entry of Armed Nagas in Manipur

857. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that underground Nagas trained in guerrilla tactics in Peking have been entering in small batches in the Ukhrul Sub Division of Manipur from the Somra tract of Upper Burma;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these Naga hostiles are bringing with them Chinese automatic arms and ammunition; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to strengthen the borders and the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) to (c). The Security Forces are maintaining constant vigilance to intercept any gang that may try to cross the border. There is no confirmed report so far of the return of any hostiles after training in China.

Presidential Awards for Persons Connected with Film Industries

858. SHRI K. N. PANDEY:
SHRI JUGAL MONDAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had recom-

mended the names of people connected with the film industry for President's awards on Republic Day this year; and

(b) if so, whether any one has refused to accept the award?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b). It will not be in public interest to disclose the information asked for.

Badarpur—Jowai—Shillong Road

859. SHRIMATI JYOTSNA CHANDA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Badarpur-Jowai-Shillong Road has been made an all-weather road; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (SHRI BHAKT DASHAN): (a) and (b). The State Government is primarily responsible for the development of this road, as it is a State Road. In view of its importance, the Government of India have, however, agreed to meet the cost of its construction from Jowai to Badarpur. The road has been made an all-weather road throughout except for the bridges over the river Lubha and the river Barak at Badarpur.

The completion of the Lubha bridge was delayed due to the difficult foundation conditions necessitating a change in the original design of the bridge. The bridge is, however, expected to be completed shortly.

The construction of the Barak bridge was sanctioned in November 1967, and the work will start as early as possible.

Regional Engineering College, Silchar

860. SHRIMATI JYOTSNA CHANDA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress in the matter of opening a regional Engineering College at Salchar; and

(b) where the administrative office of the said engineering College is functioning at present?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. TRIGUNA SEN): (a) The College has been registered as a Society, the Principal appointed and the Board of Governors constituted. Detailed Plans and estimates are being prepared.

(b) The administrative Office of the College is functioning at Shillong.

Tribunals in Assam

861. SHRIMATI JYOTSNA CHANDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to close down tribunals dealing with cases of Pakistani infiltrators in Assam by March, 1968;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of infiltrators still in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) About 75,000.

Paradeep Port

862. SHRI S. KUNDU: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided for the construction of a cargo berth at Paradeep Port in Orissa