

Programme for Development of Backward Areas

1474. SHRI G. S. DHILLON: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a public speech at Bhubaneswar on the 18th January, 1968 she declared that special programme for the development of backward areas is under contemplation in the interest of advanced areas and the country as a whole;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the border areas hit by 1965 Indo-Pak. war will also be included in this programme?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) The Prime Minister stressed the necessity of paying special attention to the development of backward areas. She did not declare that a special programme was under contemplation.

(b) and (c). Do not arise

Mexico-U.S.A. Atomic Energy Project

1475. SHRI G. S. DHILLON: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any effort to find out the technical details of the Mexico-U.S.A. Atomic Energy Project called "Gas Bugg Experiments";

(b) whether any useful information has been obtained for our scientists concerning the world's first successful peaceful atomic expansion for production of natural gas; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The final results of Project Gasbuggy are not expected to be known for about a year.

Salute to National Flag

1477. SHRI B. K. DASCHOW-DHURY:
SHRI MOHAN SWARUP:
SHRI SHRI CHAND GOEL:
SHRI C. K. BHATTA-CHARYYA:
SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the N.C.C. Cadets in Mysore did not salute the National Flag at the Republic Day Parade on the 26th January, 1968; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI) M. R. KRISHNA): (a) N.C.C. Cadets of the Government College Mercara did not salute the National Flag at the Republic Day Parade on the 26th January, 1968

(b) A Court of Enquiry has been ordered and its proceedings are awaited.

Secessionists move in East Pakistan PAKISTAN

1478. SHRI JUGAL MONDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has blamed India for secessionists' move in East Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) On January 6, 1968, the Government of Pakistan alleged that an Indian diplomat and some Indian Army officers in Agartala assisted several Pakistanis in their design against the Government of Pakistan.

(b) The Government of India have categorically denied the allegations and regret the attempt of the Government of Pakistan to falsely involve Indian officials in what was essentially an internal development in East Pakistan.

Tibetan Refugees

1479. SHRI JUGAL MONDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tibetan fugitives are still coming to India; and

(b) if so, what arrangements have been made to screen them?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes Sir, the last batch of 126 Tibetan Refugees entered India on 18/19-11-67.

(b) Tibetan refugees are thoroughly interrogated by a team of interrogators to detect and prevent infiltration of subversive elements. In cases where their bonafides are suspected they are detained under the Preventive Detention Act.

This information was given in answer to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 1348 on the 24th July, 1967 and in answer to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 722 of 18th December, 1967.

Road Link with Leh

1480. SHRI HIMATSINGKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of a road connecting the Nurba valley with Leh has been undertaken;

(b) if so, the progress in this regard; and

(c) what is the Central contribution to the construction of this road link between Leh and the rest of the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) The construction of a road connecting Nubra Valley with Leh is not included in the programme of Border Roads Development Board.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Seating Arrangements on Republic Day Parade (1968)

1481. SHRI JAGANNATH RAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the Republic Day Parade (1968) the seating arrangement for Sheikh Abdullah was in the 5th row and that for the Mayor of Delhi in the 7th row; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) Arrangements for seating both Sheikh Mohd. Abdullah and the Mayor of Delhi were made in the V-1 Enclosure meant for Ministers, Members of Parliament and other dignitaries.

(b) Arrangements for seating of dignitaries who are invited to witness the Republic Day Parade are made according to their respective positions in the Table of Precedence. A dignitary who has relinquished charge of an Office is usually seated after the dignitaries holding that Office. Chief Ministers of States figure in Article 15; whereas the Mayor of Delhi has