

VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) and (b). No communication has been received from the Government of Manipur recently in this regard. However, as stated in reply to unstarred question No. 5196 on the 23rd August, 1968 in the House, Government are not in favour of the division of the existing Union territory of Manipur.

Regrouping of Villages in Mizo Hills

1321. SHRI R.V. NAIK :
 SHRI MAHENDRA MAJHI :
 SHRI NANJA GOWDER :
 SHRI D. AMAT :
 SHRI SITARAM KESRI :
 SHRI S.S. KOTHARI :
 SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :
 SHRI N.R. LASKAR :
 SHRI R. BARUA :
 SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA :
 SHRI B.K. DASCHOWDHURY :
 SHRI SURENDRANATH
 DWIVEDY :
 SHRI P. VISWAMBHARAN :
 SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :
 SHRI VALMIKI CHOUDHARY :
 SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the scheme of regrouping of villages in the Mizo Hills district has entered the second phase of operation ;

(b) if so, the up-to-date progress of the first phase and the extent to which its objectives have been achieved ;

(c) the distinctive features of the second phase of operation and the benefits likely to accrue therefrom ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that officials are reluctant to go into the interiors because of lack of adequate protection from hostile Mizos ; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to safeguard their interests and to create confidence among them to work in these areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) to (c) : Grouping of villages in Mizo Hill district has been undertaken

to provide greater security to the villagers against activities of hostiles. Such grouping also prevents hostile elements from successfully intimidating isolated villages with a view to obtain shelter, supplies etc. The scheme envisages improvement of agricultural practices, allotment of land for cultivation, provision of adequate water supply, medical and educational facilities etc.

The first phase of grouping along the road from Silchar to Aijal and Lungleh was carried out in the beginning of 1967. About 45,000 people inhabiting 100 villages were grouped into 18 centres. The grouping has resulted in greater protection to the villagers and other developmental objectives are also being achieved.

In appreciation of the advantages of the grouping, over 28,000 persons have voluntarily shifted from their isolated and far-flung villages to various administrative centres and near the vicinity of security posts. The second phase of grouping is under progress, along the roads Lungleh to Demagiri, Lungleh to Lawngtlai, Seling to Champhai and along Mizo Hills-Tripura border. The shifting of the population of about 90 villages comprising of about 28,000 persons has so far been completed.

(d) and (e). The State Government of Assam have intimated that no complaints have been received of any widespread reluctance on the part of district and other officials to work in the interior of Mizo District. The State Government have taken into account the arduous conditions obtaining in the District while arranging postings and transfers of officials.

Hippies in India

1322. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Will the Ministers of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Hippies who arrived in the country during the last three years ;

(b) whether their number has noticeably increased during the past few months ;