

Assistance to Insurgents

174. SHRI RAM NAIK :
SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bangladesh is under pressure to help N-E rebels: Mahanta" appearing in the Times of India, Mumbai dated September 2, 1997;

(b) whether the Government is aware of the foreign countries who are pressurising Bangladesh Government to give sanctuary to insurgents from North-East;

(c) if so, the names of those countries; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to persuade those countries to stop these activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI):
(a) to (d) Government's attention has been drawn to the news item entitled "Bangladesh is under pressure to help N-E rebels: Mahanta" published in the Times of India, Mumbai dated September 2, 1997.

The Government is not aware of any foreign country pressurising the Bangladesh Government to help insurgents from North-East. However, the Government is aware of anti-India activities of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence inside Bangladesh. The Government is also aware of Indian insurgents from the north-Eastern States misusing Bangladesh territory for anti-India activities. Government's concerns at such activities have been taken up on a regular basis at high levels. The Government of Bangladesh has stated that it does not allow Bangladesh territory for sanctuary, transit, setting up of camps and carrying arms into India by any insurgent.

Privatisation of Hydro - Power Generation

175. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have announced a series of incentives to encourage corporates for setting up hydro electric power projects in the country;

(b) if so, whether any non-resident Indian have submitted any proposal in this regard and likely investment in foreign exchange;

(c) whether a national policy has been prepared by the Government for hydel sector; and

(d) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. To mobilise additional resources to help to bridge the gap in demand and supply, the Government has encouraged greater investment by private enterprises in power sector. In this regard, the Government has formulated a policy in 1991 for greater participation of private sector in power development.

(b) The Central Electricity Authority has accorded in principle clearance to 13 hydroelectric projects. The details of these are given in statement enclosed. The following projects included in the Annexure are promoted by United States of America Companies:—

- (i) Dhamwari Sunda (2 × 35 MW) — Himachal Pradesh
- (ii) Upper Krishna (1107 MW) — Karnataka
- (iii) Hibra (3 × 77 MW) — Himachal Pradesh

(c) and (d) The Government of India is proposing to formulate a National Policy for the Hydel Sector and in this regard a Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri M.K. Sambamurti. The main recommendations of Sambamurti Committee are

- i. The Hydro potential which is concentrated in a few regions should be reassessed and exploited.
- ii. Public Sector should primarily undertake large and multi-purpose projects and private sector should concentrate on smaller projects.
- iii. Memorandum of Understanding route should be adopted in the case of complex hydro projects.
- iv. International Competitive bidding route should be adopted in the case of smaller and less complex projects and based on unit power/energy cost.
- v. Joint Ventures of Public Sector and Private Sector should be encouraged.
- vi. Additional incentives for hydro projects should be given so that return on hydro is made comparable to thermal projects.
- vii. Peaking power should be allowed additional returns.
- viii. Special emphasis should be given to hydro potential in North East.