

that Tribal Sub-Plan has been formulated, but the entire work relating to the implementation has been left to the State Governments. A Tribal Authority is set up and an officer who does not want to work is posted there. Thus, Tribal Department has the dubious distinction of being the medium of gross exploitation. I want to say that only those officers who want to serve the people in a dedicated manner should be posted there. If such an agency is not set up, how the Tribals will make progress ?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : Sir, work is carried out in the States and in the Tribal pockets. If the work is done through an agency, this question can be raised in that case also. We have a Monitoring Cell to see who works in a dedicated manner and who does not. This cell does the monitoring work from time to time. In every State wherever there is concentration of tribals, a committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister has been constituted. In some States, there are Tribal Ministers Incharge as well who oversee through this committee the works which should be undertaken in the tribal areas. If there is slackness somewhere or the work is not being done or the funds allocated for tribal areas are not being utilised properly, the Advisory Committee should see all these things.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Sub-Plan Programmes are implemented only in I.T.D. Blocks or I.T.D.B. villages. The I.T.D.B. area covers only 45% of the tribal population and 55% of the tribal population are left out. They are not covered by this programme. In order to cover all the tribal people of our country, do the Government propose to extend the Sub-Plan programme to other areas also in addition to ITDB areas ?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : The Government has already extended it and as I have already said, 240 MADA pockets have been identified. Besides this, 20 new primitive tribes were also identified. There is a direct coverage of the scheduled tribes population itself to the extent of 65-75 per cent by ITDB blocks and MADA area. We have also said that wherever there is scattered population of tribals, they will also be brought under this.

SHRI SARAT DEB : In addition to the special funds provided for the tribals, some money is also being spent from the State annual plans towards the development of the tribals. I want to know if any specific survey has been made in different States of the country to find out the reasons why in spite of spending such a huge amount for the uplift of the tribals, they have not come upto the standards which were aimed at in the 6th Plan.

Secondly, has it been brought to the notice of the Government that the money meant for the Tribal Sub-Plan area is being diverted by the States without the proper sanction of the Centre ? I want to know this particularly about the State of Orissa.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : Different surveys have been made from time to time. Apart from our monitoring cell, the State Governments also look after all these things. If the hon. Member wants to know about the important evaluation studies undertaken by Tribal Research Institute during the 6th Plan period, I would like to tell you that 4-5 Committees were appointed from time to time to evaluate the tribal programmes in different States and that covered Orissa also...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SARAT DEB : I wanted to know regarding diversion of money specially in the State of Orissa.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : I have not received any such allegations.

Construction of Border Fence with Bangladesh

*518. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the upto date progress of construction of the border fence with Bangladesh to check infiltration into Assam;

(b) whether any problems are being faced in this regard; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps contemplated by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) The survey work for construction of road etc. is to be resumed shortly.

(b) No problems are envisaged.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : The Assam Accord provided for construction of barbed wire fencing. Even through several months have elapsed, how is it that no action has been taken in this regard? Further, is it not a fact that in March, 1984, CPWD had taken up the question of survey and construction of the barbed wire fencing and later suspended it? How is it that it has not been resumed so far and what are the reasons for that?

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : The hon. Member is misinformed. A great deal of action has taken place. Two months ago, we had detailed discussions with the Assam Chief Minister, wherein we had indicated that if we have to effectively stop the infiltration, barbed wire fencing is not the only answer. If we have to stop infiltration, then for better surveillance, we need roads and necessary infrastructure at the Assam border also. The Chief Minister of Assam also accepted what we have had to say. We have set up an empowered committee. We have worked out the details and a team from the Home Ministry will be going to discuss matters further with the Assam Government in a few days and within this month, we will start the survey work on the road. When we start the survey work on the road, we will also discuss with the Assam Government the various types of fencing which are necessary all along the 202 KM of the border.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : In point 9 (1), the Assam Accord provides for the construction of barbed wire fencing. Point 9 (2) provides for the construction of the road. And both are envisaged in the Assam Accord. Therefore, it is not a new innovation which is now being proposed by the Minister and which is now being taken up for discussion with the Chief Minister of Assam. When it was already envisaged as part of the accord, which had already been concluded on the 15th August 1985, how is it that no steps have so far been taken? Is it not a fact that during the year 1985-86 itself, about Rs. 2.5 crores were provided in the Budget for the purpose of laying the road and also another Rs. 2.5 crores for the construction of the barbed wire fence? How is it that it has not been constructed at that time? Are any funds

made available in this year for that purpose?

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : The hon. member is repeating again that the Assam Accord is there and that it is not being implemented and so on. I would like to reiterate what I have said earlier that it is a totally wrong statement. We have taken a lot of action. In addition to the roads and fencing, we also have a plan for increasing the surveillance by the BSP on the border; we have got more border check-posts coming up; we have got more battalions coming up, and all this has to be a composite plan. Now you cannot say that on the 15th you have done this and on the 20th, this should be done. All these things will take a little time to work out. When we are saying categorically that within this month we are going to start this work, I really do not know what the hon. member wants. Funds are on constraint.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : I would like to know whether it is a fact that some survey has already been taken up. There is going to be some no man's land between the borders of Bangladesh and India and some villages may be affected. If the villages are going to be affected, I want to know as to what steps the Government is taking to rehabilitate the people of these villages.

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : I think I have not fully understood the question clearly.

MR. SPEAKER : He is saying that some problems might arise in regard to some villages. What about those villages?

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : This matter has also been discussed with the Chief Minister. We have, what we call a Border Development Fund. We are working out the details in this regard. In fact, when our team goes to Guwahati, we will also be discussing various aspects in terms of land acquisition for the area which is required.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Sir, the Minister has said that the fence is not the only answer. There are riverine routes, which the fence cannot span. Pachyderms will knock down fence and pillar. Nocturnal thieves in those forested areas will cut and cart the fencing away and the guards may look the

other way. Now, in view of these things, I would like to know whether the Minister has seriously considered the views of many people that the whole project may become a dead weight and a crock.

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : About the fence, we have also voiced our apprehensions and just keeping a fence there is not the only solution. Unless the security forces can reach the spot, can have constant surveillance on the area, can have observation posts, can have border outposts for monitoring that area, fence is not the only solution. That is why we have drawn up a much bigger plan of having the fence along the Assam-Meghalaya border. But along with that, we must have the infrastructure first. If we build the fence first, without having the necessary road on which the BSF can patrol, then anybody can come in.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Whatever be the supplementary, the answer is the same.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is the panacea !

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : May I know from the hon. Minister as to why the amount that was earmarked in the budget last year has not been spent so far on the question of fencing and is it a fact that in the discussions with the Chief Minister of Assam, a clearance was given that the Assam Public Works Department can go ahead with the survey, but that clearance was subsequently stopped by the Central Government? If so, the reasons thereof, because that has given rise to a lot of apprehension in the mind of the Assam people that the government is not very serious so far as fencing or construction of the road is concerned.

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : We have requested the Assam Government, and in fact, we have mentioned to them that as soon as we give clearance from here, we will entrust the work to the Assam PWD. Now that will stand. But what has really happened is that Assam started the survey before we had informed them. We had not informed them at that stage because we were also taking up the matter with the Bangladesh authorities. But, now, a team would be going and whenever work starts it will be done by the Assam

PWD. Also, if I may add, the hon. member has mentioned as to why the amount was not spent earlier.

AN HON. MEMBER : The hon. Minister is evading the answer.

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : No, no, I am not evading it at all; I am telling that the work will start. Where is the question of evading it?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : In 1984 there was a problem. Has it been sorted out?

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : There was a problem; that is why we are discussing with the Bangladesh authorities, we will be sorting it out.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : You were answering as to why the amount was not spent.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Next question.

Scheme for Voluntary Retirement

*519. **SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme being formulated in respect of voluntary retirement of the Central Government employees after 15 years of service; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : I want to know how many employees have retired voluntarily under the present voluntary retirement scheme and whether the government has made any assessment as to the savings to the government as a result of the voluntary retirement?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Various cadre controlling authorities are empowered to accept voluntary retirement. I would require notice. I have together information from various Ministries about the number of persons retired.