

inspection of items procured for various Government organisations through embassies abroad ;

(b) whether the present system has been found unsatisfactory ; and

(c) if so, the details of the changes, if any, Government propose to make in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(b) No, Sir. The present system is working satisfactorily.

(c) Does not arise.

Detection of Foreigners in Assam

*383. SHRI SUDARSAN DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreigners detected and deported from Assam ;

(b) the number of cases referred to the Tribunal ;

(c) whether Union Government are aware that Indian citizens are being harassed during the process of detection of foreigners in Assam ;

(d) if so, the steps Union Government have taken in this regard to safeguard the rights of the Indian citizens ;

(e) the number of persons who have been deported to Bangladesh in the name of foreigners and whether the deported persons were handed over to the Bangladesh Government or not ; and

(f) if not, what is the position of those people ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) According to the State Government 3637 foreigners have been expelled from Assam since the Assam Accord upto September, 1987,

(b) Upto September, 1987, 15292 cases had been referred to the Foreigners Tribunals and 8094 cases referred to the Illegal Migrants (Determination) Tribunals.

(c) and (d). Several complaints have been received regarding harassment of Indian citizens in the process of detection of foreigners in Assam. These complaints have been referred to the State Government for appropriate remedial action. The need for safeguarding the rights of the Indian citizens and to prevent any harassment to them has been impressed on the State Government.

(e) and (f). The foreigners mentioned in reply to (a) above were pushed across the border.

[Translation]

Clearance to Irrigation Projects from Madhya Pradesh

*384. SHRI MANKURAM SODI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the names and number of medium and major irrigation projects from Madhya Pradesh pending for clearance ; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects and the reasons for delay in giving the clearance in each case separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). Comments on ten major and five medium projects received from Madhya Pradesh have been sent for their compliances. These projects are as under.

Major projects

1. Arpa
2. Bargi Multipurpose
3. Kolar
4. Omkareshwar Multipurpose

5. Thanwar Tank
6. Pench Diversion
7. Rajghat Canal
8. Narmada Sagar
9. Mahan
10. Man.

Medium projects

1. Bah
2. Sutiapat
3. Gej
4. Barchar
5. Mahuar.

[English]

Separation of religion from Politics

*385. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a Bill for separation of religion from politics; and

(b) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The question of separating religion from politics is a sensitive matter. The Government is considering this matter in depth from various angles.

Artificial rains

*386. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMAMURTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an ambitious project prepared by the Indian Meteorological Department in 1975 to cause artificial rain is lying in cold storage;

(b) whether the report with a financial outlay of Rs. 10 crores had raised hopes of

getting artificial rain for drinking water and generate hydel power as in USA and USSR; and

(c) the salient features of the report and the steps proposed in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) No, Sir.

In August 1974 a report of the Working Group on Rain Making Experiment set up by the Ministry of Tourism & Civil Aviation recommended setting up of an Indian Weather Modification Organisation during the 5th & 6th Five Year Plan periods with a financial outlay of Rs. 10.5 crores spread over a period of 9 years.

Several steps have been initiated from time to time for promoting research and applications in the area of weather modification.

(b) and (c). The salient features of the report were to establish an Indian Weather Modification Agency for developing prototype techniques for enhancing rainfall by aerial cloud seeding, dynamic cloud seeding, suppression of hail, dispersal of fog, etc. Promotion of basic research in cloud physics and modelling at research institutes and universities was also recommended.

The experiments conducted by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology over a period of about 10 years in Sirur and Baramati regions of Maharashtra are in the process of critical evaluation.

Shooting incident in Delhi

*387. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE :

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons killed and injured during the shooting incident in South Delhi on 20 October, 1987;