

(b) This offer has been made pursuant to a decision of the Cabinet that the maximum possible public participation shall be sought after retaining Government majority. It is proposed to offer 43 per cent of the equity to the General public amounting to Rs. 215 lakhs in shares of Rs. 10 each. The balance of 57 per cent will be held by the Central Government.

Alleged outburst of Shri V. P. Naik against the Centre

*841. SHRI RAM DEO SINGH:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the Times of India report of the speech delivered by the Maharashtra Chief Minister, Shri V. P. Naik, at the Narora type camp in Maharashtra in Bordi;

(b) whether the Centre has thwarted the employment guarantee and cotton monopoly purchase schemes of the State Governments;

(c) whether the Centre agree with Shri Naik's description of the State Governments as "C class municipalities"; and

(d) if not, the reasons for Shri V. P. Naik's outburst against the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (d). While the Government had been the report of a speech made by the former Chief Minister of Maharashtra State, as reported in the Times of India, the questions raised by him in that speech did not in any way vitiate the discussions and finalisation of the annual plan for the State of Maharashtra for the year 1975-76 Purely as a question of fact, Government have not in any way thwarted either the Employment Guarantee Scheme or the Cotton Monopoly Purchase Scheme. In this view of the matter,

Government would not wish to speculate about the reasons for the remarks attributed to the former Chief Minister.

Assam-Meghalaya Boundary dispute

*843. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Meghalaya State has urged the Centre to intervene immediately in the case of border dispute between Assam and Meghalaya over Garos of Goalpara and Kamrup districts; and

(b) if so, the decision of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY): (a) and (b). There is no border dispute between Assam and Meghalaya and there is no question of the Central Government intervening in any such border dispute. The Chief Minister, Meghalaya, has written to me recently that the facts about the problems faced by Garos living in Goalpara and Kamrup districts should be ascertained. In this connection attention is invited to the answer furnished to Unstarred Question No. 7450 on 23rd April, 1975 wherein I had suggested that effective implementation of the safeguards for linguistic minorities would be the more appropriate way of redressing the grievances of Garos in Assam and that the Chief Minister, Assam, had assured that the rights of linguistic minorities of Assam would be fully protected. The Central Government remain in touch with the Government of Assam in regard to these matters.