

separate Divisions have been constituted in the Ministry of Home Affairs to deal with matters relating to national integration and north-eastern India and several subjects hitherto handled in the Political Division were transferred to these new Divisions. Hence, a review of the recommendations earlier made by the Administrative Reforms Department had become necessary and has now been undertaken.

Smuggling of arms from Bangladesh and their sale in West Bengal and Bihar

*54. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that arms and ammunitions smuggled from Bangladesh are being freely sold in West Bengal and Bihar ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent this ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Some instances of smuggling of arms and ammunition from across the Bangladesh-West Bengal border into India have come to the notice of Government.

(b) Necessary steps have been taken to ensure that smuggling of arms from Bangladesh is stopped. Since the liberation of Bangladesh, Border Security out-posts have resumed functioning in the normal manner and all movements across the border have been channelised through the check-posts. The B. S. F. and State Police Forces have been directed to keep strict watch on the movement of unauthorised persons. The State Governments concerned have strengthened the police arrangements in the border areas. Close watch is also being maintained by the State Police over clandestine transactions in the sale of arms and ammunition so that the sources of supplies and carriers could be located and suitably dealt with.

Siliguri Telephone Exchange Deadlock on 1st June, 1972

*55. SHRI DASARATHA DEB : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware about the total deadlock and stopping of work at

Siliguri Telephone Exchange on 1st June, 1972 ;

(b) whether a Trade Union leader of Telephone Exchange at Siliguri was arrested from inside the Exchange on the same day : and

(c) if so, the steps proposed by Government for the safety and security of the employees inside the Telephone and Telegraph Offices ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(c) The question does not arise.

Portuguese Agents in Goa Administration

*56. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are a number of Portuguese agents serving in the Goa Administration and if so, whether the Central Agency with the help of local Police have prepared a list of those agents ;

(b) whether the report of the Central Agency and local Police has been submitted to the Union Government ; and

(c) if so, the Centre's reaction and what steps have been taken by the Centre to help Goa Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) The Goa Administration have reported that they have no such information.

(b) and (c). Do not arise

French Reluctance to Help India in the Development of Diamant BC Satellite Launcher

*57. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state

(a) whether France has not agreed to assist India in the development of the diamant B C satellite Launcher ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and its effect on our space programme ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION