

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

AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) The French Government has dropped the development of their Diamant B. C. Satellite Launcher.

(b) The decision of the French Government does not affect the Indian space programme.

News-Item 'Is Mai Lai in Maharashtra' Appearing in Blitz Dated 24th June, 1972

*58. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an article appearing in the Blitz (last page) dated the 24th June, 1972 captioned "Is Mai Lai in Maharashtra"; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) It has been the policy of the Government that the administration should be solicitous of the welfare of the weaker sections of the society, particularly whenever any unfortunate incident takes place in which members of such weaker sections are the victims. All authorities concerned have been directed to ensure prompt and effective investigation of offences committed against Harijans and it has been clarified that any failure to do so would amount to a great dereliction of duty on the part of the officers concerned.

Loss on Post Offices in Rural Areas

*59. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Posts and Telegraphs Department loses Rs. 90 lakhs every year for putting up Post offices in rural areas ; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) The Posts and Telegraphs Department is incurring a loss of about Rs. 67 lakhs per annum on an average for opening and retaining experimental Post Offices.

(b) After Independence, in accordance with the objective of providing the very basic and preliminary infrastructure of communication to the rural folk, the Government have been following a liberal policy in the matter of starting rural postal service.

The loss mentioned in (a) above are the direct result of this policy.

बिहार में गरीबी

*60. श्री एम० एस० पुरती : क्या योजना मन्त्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिहार के मुख्य मन्त्री ने यह स्वीकार किया है कि बिहार राज्य के 50 लाख लोग दरिद्रता स्तर से भी नीचे का जीवन व्यतीत कर रहे हैं ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या केन्द्र सरकार ने इस सम्बन्ध में बिहार सरकार से कुछ विशेष योजनाओं की सिफारिश की है ; और

(ग) क्या इसके लिए धन राशि भी स्वीकृत की गई है, और यदि हाँ, तो कितनी राशि दी गई है ?

योजना मन्त्रालय में राज्य मन्त्री (श्री मोहन धारिया) : (क) राज्य सरकार से प्राप्त सूचना के अनुसार, बिहार के मुख्य मन्त्री ने इस प्रकार का कोई वक्तव्य नहीं दिया है ।

(ख) और (ग). बिहार राज्य ने गरीबी के उन्मूलन के लिए जो विशेष उपाय अपनाए हैं, उन्हें दृष्टि हुए एक विवरण सभा पटल पर प्रस्तुत है । [मन्त्रालय में रखा गया । देखिये सख्या LT-3222/72]

Sale and Smuggling of Liquor in the Country

401. SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIEF : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any measures have been taken by Government to check the sale of spurious liquor and smuggling in the country ; and

(b) if so, the State-wise steps taken in the matter and the progress achieved ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE