

the border village of Nashirapara in Nadia District on the 27th June, 1971 ; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b). The case is under police investigation.

Reported Air Dropping of Chinese Literature in Sundergarh District (Orissa)

*1285. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported air dropping of Chinese literature, transmitter etc. in the village Jhumuru, P. S. Raibaga, District Sundergarh, Orissa ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). There is no such information. However facts are being ascertained from the State Government.

Grant of more Powers to Regional Licensing Authorities to issue Import Licences for Capital Goods and Raw Materials

*1286. SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the power available to Regional Licensing Authorities to grant import licences for the import of capital goods without reference to the Central organisation ;

(b) whether any enhancement of these powers is proposed and, if so, the particulars of the proposed enhancement ; and

(c) whether any similar delegation is proposed for the import of raw materials ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) No, Sir. The power for the grant of import licences for machinery to small scale industrial units by the regional licensing authorities has already been enhanced this year from Rs. 8,000/- to Rs. 12,000/- as referred to in the attached statement.

(c) The regional licensing authorities concerned have already adequate powers to consider applications for import of raw materials by actual users.

Statement

Applications for import of Capital Goods in the following cases are considered by the regional licensing authorities on the recommendations of the sponsoring authorities concerned and subject to clearance from indigenous angle, without reference to the Headquarters Organisation of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports :

(i) *Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Bombay :*

Textile machinery (except for jute and hemp) and hosiery knitting machinery.

(ii) *Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Calcutta :*

Machinery for Jute, Rope, Hemp, Coal Mining, Quarries and Tea industries.

(iii) *Regional Licensing Authorities concerned :*

Machinery for value not exceeding Rs. 12,000/- for import by small scale industrial units, except those engaged in the industries referred to under (i) and (ii) above.

Note : The regional licensing authorities may obtain advice from the CCI&E, New Delhi on the interpretation of any specific point of policy, if they consider necessary.

Agreement between India and G. D. R. for Joint Research to Explore Ionospheric Wave Absorption

*1287. SHRI N. S. BISHT : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement has been signed