

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

between India and the German Democratic Republic to undertake a joint research project to explore ionospheric wave absorption; and

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the agreement along with the expenditure (in terms of rupees and foreign exchange, separately) likely to be incurred on the project?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : (a) The Government of India and the Government of the German Democratic Republic have signed a Protocol on 23rd June, 1971 enabling the G. D. R. to hand over an apparatus for measuring the ionospheric absorption of electro-Magnetic waves.

(b) A copy of the Protocol is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-708/71]

The apparatus is valued at about US \$ 200,000 equivalent to about Rs. 15 lakhs. The Indian side is responsible for the erection and upkeep of the apparatus for which no estimate of expenditure has been made.

Proposal to raise Rates of Postal Stationery

*1288. **SHRI GANGA REDDY :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has demanded a higher mail rate; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to raise the present rates of Post Cards etc.?

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

(b) Not for the present.

Mass Agitation against Failure of Telecommunication System in Tripura

*1289. **SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the youth and students organisations in Tripura staged a mass agitation on

the 23rd June, 1971 because of continuous failure of the P&T tele-communication system; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) and (b). Yes. However, the threatened agitation has not materialized. There has been no failure of telecommunications in the State. The Postmaster General, Assam has been in personal touch with the Chief Secretary, Tripura to ascertain any feasible Telecommunication requirements in the area.

Setting up of Chemical Complex at a Port Town

*1290. **SHRI RAJDEO SINGH :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a discussion took place between the Central Government and French and Japanese Delegations regarding setting up of Chemical Complex at certain Port town; and

(b) if so, the decisions taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Central Government Employees in Secretariate Services

5429. **SHRI ZULFIQAR ALI KHAN :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 9935 on the 16th May, 1969 regarding Central Government employes and state :

(a) the total number of officials working in the Central Secretariate Services, category-wise (including Class III and Class IV), as on the 1st May, 1971; and

(b) the number of Muslims in each of the above-mentioned categories?

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