

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : Investigation has been made on this subject in Shertallai and the studies have shown no harmful effect on the people living in this area as a result of radiation from monazite sands. We have a monazite survey unit in Shertallai in order to continuously monitor this aspect.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Is the hon. Minister aware that there is a rare earth deposits belt stretching upto 18 kms. in chatrapur area of Orissa? Though Rs. 130 crore proposed project for exploitation of these deposits has been set up there, so far production within its scheduled time has not started. As a result of this, the country is being deprived of the benefits and valuable foreign exchange, which it could have otherwise earned. If the hon. Minister has any information in this regard, he may kindly share it with us right now or else he may collect the information and place the same on the Table of the House. Why as such a unit not functioning properly in spite of its being equipped with all the resources?

[*English*]

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : Sir, the Orissa sand complex has been commissioned this year. It is true that there has been delay. The project was conceived in 1982. For various unavoidable reasons the delay occurred. The reasons were: First of all the civil work could not be completed because of heavy rains and flood. Secondly, some of the structural steel we wanted to get did not come in time. Then, the contractor could not supply some of the equipment in time. Because of these reasons, delays have occurred, but I am glad to say that finally the plant has been commissioned and it will be functioning.

Discussions at National Integration Council Meet

*28. **SHRI SHARAD DIGHE :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the subject discussed at the National Integration Council—meeting held on 12 September, 1986 in New Delhi ;

(b) the decision taken in the meeting ;

(c) whether any follow-up action has been initiated ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (d) A statement is given below.

Statement

The meeting of the National Integration Council held on 12.9.1986 was convened to discuss the welfare measures for minorities in the context of the 15-Point Programme formulated by the late Prime Minister. At the meeting, various issues relating to the welfare of minorities and measures to combat communalism and to promote national integration were discussed. It was decided to set up a Sub-Group of 3—5 Members from amongst the Members of the National Integration Council to suggest further follow up action.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : It has been stated in the answer that various issues relating to the welfare of minorities and measures to combat communalism and to promote national integration were discussed. Then, it was also decided to set up a Sub-Group of 3—5 Members from amongst the Members of the National Integration Council to suggest further follow up action.

I would like to know whether this Sub-Group has been set up and if not, what is the reason for not setting it up for taking follow up action ?

S. BUTA SINGH : The proposal has been finalised ; consent of the Members who have to be on this Sub-Group has been obtained and shortly we will set up this Sub-Group. A variety of subjects were discussed in this Council and the Group will go into the details.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : It was also reported that emphasis in the meeting was on carrying out deeper study of the phenomenon of fundamentalism, the economic and social factors that lead to

communal conflicts, specially in places where communalism was endemic. Have any steps been taken to make a deeper study about these things ?

S. BUTA SINGH : As I mentioned, a variety of subjects relating to representation of minorities in the various police organizations, need for curbing regional fundamentalism, communal tension among the minorities, collective punitive fines, use of religious places, religious processions etc. were taken up and all the Members expressed themselves. It was a very long meeting. Views were also expressed by the leaders in the National Integration Council on the regional fundamentalism extensively. This Group will also go into this as to how some kind of a consensus or a national approach could be evolved for tackling issue of regional fundamentalism which is trying to cut at the roots of the unity and communal harmony in the country.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : After the Supreme Court judgement in the National Anthem case, it was reported in the newspaper that the Government has directed the Attorney General to file a review petition with respect to the same under the Insult to National Honour Act, 1971. When we can amend this Act to achieve our objective, why should we approach the Supreme Court for a stretched interpretation of the law ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : The Government's position is that we do not accept the judgement of the Supreme Court and that is why the Attorney General has moved the Supreme Court for a review of the earlier judgement. The hon. Members will kindly appreciate that under Article 141 of the Constitution, the judgement of the Supreme Court is law. We can amend the law ; we are aware of the preventing of Insult to National Honour Act. There is a lacuna in the Act. It does not provide for punishment for anyone who willfully refuses to participate in the staging of the national anthem. This

aspect has been noted and after the review petition is disposed of by the Supreme Court, we will take further measures that are necessary to ensure that the national anthem is sung by everyone and full and complete honour is shown to the national anthem. There is no compromise on this question.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The hon. Home Minister has only indicated some general type of issues which were discussed at the last meeting of the National Integration Council. If this smaller Sub-Group is actually to suggest follow up action, it must be on the basis of such specific issues on which there was a broad agreement—not just discussion, but agreement. Otherwise, what will this Group do as regards follow up action ? Could the Minister indicate to this House at least some points—specific points—on which there is a general agreement and on which follow up action can be suggested by the Sub-Group ? Otherwise, it is all very vague. Everybody is against fundamentalism. But what is happening ?

S. BUTA SINGH : When this issue was precisely put before the National Integration Council that this could be taken on broad consensus, some of the hon. leaders of the Opposition did say that instead of saying that it is the national consensus, we should go into the details of the problem. Then, this Sub-Group was expected to really study the implications, and ramifications of the venom that is being spread by this fundamentalism. The hon. Chairman, Our Prime Minister himself directed that this is such an issue which has to cut across party lines. It is an issue which is sapping our national strength, which is cutting at the roots of our national unity. Therefore, let us make an in-depth study of the implications or the forces or the tendencies which go in for this kind of religious fundamentalism. This Group is also at a final stage and it is with the hon. Chairman. I am sure in the near future, this Group will go into this very serious issue which is affecting the national unity and it will come out with a solid and concrete plan of action which I will definitely intimate to this august House.