

(b) if so, the details regarding the scheme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) (a) and (b). In order to check and prevent atrocities committed against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes more effectively, the Union Home Minister has, in his letter dated the 6th September, 1980, addressed to the State Chief Ministers, suggested that in each of the sensitive districts, out of the posts of District Magistrate Senior Supdt. of Police, Supdt. of Police, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, sub-Divisional Police Officer, at least one of the posts should be held by officers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It has been further suggested that the officers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be posted as Station House Officers in such sensitive localities.

Assessment of the poverty in the country By Statistical Organisation

238. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Statistical Organisation of the Government has failed to assess the magnitude of the poverty in this country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the definition of 'Poverty' has not been clearly brought up;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action Government propose to take in order to accomplish this task?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) No, Sir. The proportion of people below the poverty line at different points of time has been estimated in the past from the data on distribution of persons according to various ranges of consumption expenditure as available from the

National Sample Surveys. These estimates for the year 1968-69, 1970-71, 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1977-78 have been supplied to both the Houses of Parliament.

(b) to (d). No Sir, The Government have adopted the definition of the poverty line as given by the Task Force on Projections of Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand appointed by the Planning Commission in 1977 which has recommended the norms of per capita daily requirements of 2400 calories in rural areas and 2100 calories in urban areas. The monetary counter-part of these calorie norms (including non-food items) have been worked out as Rs. 76 per capita per month for rural areas and Rs. 88 for urban areas at 1979-80 prices. The proportion of people below the monthly per capita consumer expenditure thus obtained is used to determine the percentage of persons below the poverty line. The concept of poverty followed at the official level is thus clearly defined.

Mal Functioning of Police Force

239. SHRI JAGPAL SINGH:

SHRI B. D. SINGH:

SHRI CHHANGUR RAM:

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement made by the Secretary-General, All India Policemen's Federation as reported in the Statesman dated 30th December, 1980 criticising the mal-functioning of the administration besides asking to define the duties of the police forces vis-a-vis Government on the one hand and the public on the others; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Statement is one sided and what is said therein is not correct. The duties of the Police are already defined in various Acts and Police Manuals. The NPC have also made *inter-alia* certain recommendations about police duties and these are under consideration.

Scheme Re. Bridges of National Importance

240. SHRI D. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Shipping and Transport have proposed the desirability of a scheme under the head: Bridges of National Importance; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal and the reaction of the Planning Commission thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) In their 1980—85 Plan proposals, Ministry of Shipping and Transport suggested the revival of the Centrally-Sponsored Scheme of roads/bridges of national importance and suggested a provision of Rs. 20 crores.

(b) the proposal was discussed by the Planning Commission with the Ministry of Shipping and Transport in connection with the discussions for the formulation of the Sixth Plan 1980—85, held in August 1980. It was indicated on behalf of the Planning Commission that since this was one of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes which had been transferred from the Central to the State sector as decided by the National Development Council, no outlay could be provided for this programme. It was also mentioned that it was not desirable to bring this scheme back to Central sector at this stage. The proposal was thus dropped after discussions.

Indigenous heavy water for Atomic Plants

241. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian scientists have succeeded in evolving some method of preparing heavy water for atomic plants based on indigenous materials and methods;

(b) if so, details thereabout and Government's reaction thereon; and

(c) what are the constraints in speeding up the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes on bigger scale and what steps are being taken to overcome the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Heavy Water Plant set up at Kota is based on technical know-how and engineering developed indigenously. The plant is based mostly on indigenous materials and equipment. The Plant is expected to go into production in the last quarter of 1981. Government proposes to adopt this technology in setting up some of the future plants also.

(c) The constraints in speeding up the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes on bigger scale are (a) shortage of heavy water (b) difficulties encountered in the fabrication of equipment and (c) limited financial resources. To overcome these, Government proposes to set up more Heavy Water Plants. Efforts to develop the back-up industry in tune with the Nuclear Power Programme of the country are being pursued vigorously.