

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to set up an atomic power plant in Punjab;

(b) whether the technical details of the proposal have been finalised; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines thereof ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, THE MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) to (c). A request has been received from the Government of Punjab for setting up a nuclear power station in that State. The proposal will be examined in detail as soon as the feasibility studies already initiated by the Department of Atomic Energy, regarding the setting up of nuclear power stations during the Fifth Plan period, are completed.

#### INDIANS IN NIGERIA

\*29. SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indians in disturbed Eastern and Mid-Western Nigeria are reported to be unsafe;

(b) if so, the total number of Indians there; and

(c) the steps which are being taken by Government for their safeguard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Throughout the fighting in Nigeria the Indians in the disturbed areas have been reported to be safe. No casualties among the Indians have been reported so far.

(b) The total number of Indians in Eastern and Mid-Western Nigeria was about 400. A large number of them have been evacuated though some had preferred to stay on in their places. At present it is reported that there may be about 30 Indians in Port Harcourt in Eastern Nigeria.

(c) The Government of India has given instructions to the High Commission in Lagos to facilitate the evacuation of re-

maining Indian nationals in the troubled areas. At the moment, it is reported that Port Harcourt is inaccessible. But our Mission will watch for every opportunity that can be seized to evacuate the Indian nationals there.

#### NEWS ABOUT STATE MINISTERS

\*30. DR. RANEN SEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government has complained that the Calcutta Station of the All India Radio has blacked-out the news report of a Press Conference held by the State Ministers on the 21st August, 1967 on their Mission to Delhi for more food for the State; and

(b) if so, the nature of the reply given thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH): (a) and (b). Certain newspapers recently carried a story regarding the West Bengal Information Minister having publicly alleged that All India Radio had blacked out a Press Conference held by West Bengal Ministers in Calcutta on the eve of their proposed Dharna in Delhi. On checking the facts it is found that the Calcutta Press Conference was extensively covered both in the regional news bulletins broadcast at 7.50 p.m. and 10.05 p.m. from All India Radio, Calcutta on August 21, 1967 and the Delhi news bulletin at 9.00 p.m. on the same date.

#### CONTROL OF FOOD ARTICLES

\*33. DR. P. MANDAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been or is likely to be reconsideration of the policy of controls of food articles;

(b) the total number of persons who are benefited on account of controls in towns where control or rationing has been in existence; and

(c) the cost of control and rationing machinery annually and whether the burden of running the machinery falls on the consumers ?