

[24 July, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

**Border issue between Assam and Meghalaya**

825. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'North-East Age', dated the 3rd June, 2002 under the caption "Border issue may turn serious: Lyngdoh";

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to diffuse the border tension between Assam and Meghalaya which may snow-ball into a major problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Arrest of Syed Ali Shah Geelani**

826. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact with the arrest of Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani and his associates, Government has established their links with ISI over the years;

(b) whether any enquiry or probe has been conducted for the intelligence failure as these leaders *inter alia* enjoyed State security cover; and

(c) if so, the results thereof and if not, the steps being taken to revamp intelligence agencies and make them accountable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) It is a known fact the terrorism in J&K is aided and abetted by Pak ISI and funding of terrorist outfits is one part of their elaborate infrastructure for terrorism. While investigations are at a preliminary stage, the arrest of Syed Ali Shah Geelani and others, appear to further corroborate the aforesaid stand.

(b) The security cover is provided by the State Government on their assessment of threat perception regarding the life and safety of a particular person.

(c) Refining of intelligence machinery is a continuous process for developing a preventive, protective and consequent management capabilities against terrorism.

**Proposal for National Programme on Independent Mini Bio-mass Power Plants**

827. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency has mooted a proposal for national programme on independent mini bio-mass power plants of 1 MW each at an estimated cost of Rs. 3 crore per plant on a pilot scale;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken on the proposals of IREDA;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, a draft proposal was mooted by Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency for establishment of independent mini biomass power plants of 1 MW capacity at a cost of Rs. 3 crore per plant. The objective of the proposal was to promote decentralized grid-connected power generation utilizing surplus biomass material in the rural areas based on biomass gasification technology.

(c) to (e) Under the National Biomass Gasifier programme, suitable provisions exist for the establishment of such mini biomass power plants upto 1 MW capacity in the stand-alone or grid-connected mode based on biomass gasification technology. Central Financial Assistance is available for the establishment of such power plants. A number of mini biomass power plants have already been installed in various parts of the country.