

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Actually, this problem is being considered right % from 1974. In 1974, the then Prime Minister of the country, Smt. Indira Gandhi, wrote a letter to the Cabinet Secretary saying that the Government should taken action to shift the Indian Army which is there in the Red Fort. The presence of the Indian Army in 75 per cent of the total area of the Red Fort is causing problems. Now, a Public Interest Litigation is pending before the Delhi High Court. The A.S.I. is going to file an affidavit, praying the court, joining the issue, that we also want the Indian Army to be evacuated from the Red Fort area for its better upkeep. I will be holding discussions with the Defence Minister in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

New water management policy

†*265. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to declare a new water policy for management of water in the Country; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be declared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) The National Water Board has reviewed the existing National Water Policy 1987, and formulated an updated and revised draft National Water Policy for the development of Water Resources in the country. Declaration of the new National Water Policy depends on its adoption by the National Water Resources Council.

Regional Rural Banks in Meghalaya

*266 SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of the Regional Rural Banks functioning at present in Meghalaya, alongwith their locations;

(b) the details of the loan facilities provided by the banks to all the needy farmers and industrialists of the State during the last three years, year-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.