

and laboratory space, erected a large garrage for parking the vehicles and storage of equipment. The team built a small field station consisting of three cottages in the hills at a distance of about 60 kilometres from the permanent Indian Antarctic Station.

(b) The report of the Leader of the Fourth Expedition is awaited and is expected soon. Details will be known on receipt of this report.

(c) A regime for Antarctic Mineral Resources is being negotiated between the consultative parties of the Antarctic Treaty of which India is a member.

Presence of Pakistanis in Punjab

1014. SHRI RAM NARESH
KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND
MOHUNTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report appearing in the Hindustan Times of 22nd April, 1985 to the effect that a large number of Pakistanis in Punjab were motivating and sending Sikh youths for arms training in Pakistan and hiring houses in the border towns to give protection to the extremists; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) Government have seen the news item.

(b) Strict vigilance is being maintained in this regard by the authorities.

Second Interim Report of the Kudal Commission on Gandhi Peace Foundation

1015. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kudal Commission in the affairs of the Gandhi Peace Foundation in its second interim report has charged any voluntary organisations with the violation of the provisions of Secrets Act or the Map Restrictions Policy or any of the laws;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA:

(a) to (c) Yes Sir. Some cases of violation of the provisions of the Map Restrictions Policy of the Government by Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development (AVARD) have come to the notice of the Kudal Commission of Inquiry. These are still under investigation.

Tehri Dam and Srinagar Hydel Project pending with the Department of Environment

1016. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tehri dam project and the Srinagar hydel project are pending with the Department of Environment for approval;

(b) if so, what are the hinderances in the way of approval and whether the Uttar Pradesh Government has been apprised of it; and

(c) if not, by when the approval is likely to be sanctioned.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) and (c) The original proposal of the Tehri Dam project was approved by the Planning Commission in

1972 but was not taken up for implementation immediately by the State authorities. This proposal was subsequently modified and when implementation was started, it evoked opposition from the local people. The project was, therefore, referred to the Department of Environment for appraisal for which an Expert Group was constituted in 1980. An Interim report was submitted by the Expert Group outlining clearly the steps and studies to be undertaken by various agencies including the project authorities. Some of the problems included existence of a deep seated Marh fault cutting across the dam axis. Three faults passing through the reservoir which raised the question of reservoir rim stability due to induced seismicity in a seismically sensitive area. The absence of Master Plan for the rehabilitation of the oustees, catchment area treatment Command area development etc. were some of the factors needing close examination. Geomorphological studies as well as studies on seismicity and the effect of deep seated Marh-fault have been completed showing that considerable areas on the reservoir slopes would require stabilisation. A study of flora and fauna in the area has already been undertaken and a final assessment of the seismic aspects in the region is to be submitted by the School of Earthquake Engineering, Roorkee University very shortly. On the basis of all this information, the project will be considered and recommendations offered.

The Srinagar Hydel Project is one of the 23 hydro-electric projects proposed on the river Ganga and it was decided, in consultation with the Planning Commission, that the cumulative impact assessment of these projects should be undertaken to ensure that effective remedial steps for the treatment of the catchment and the development of the Command Area are taken up concurrently with the execution of the engineering project. Accordingly, the Planning Commis-

sion has constituted three Expert Groups to examine the geological socio-economic and cost benefit analysis aspects of the hydro-electric development projects in the area. The reports of these Experts Groups are still awaited. Even so, on the assurance of the State Government, that catchment Area treatment will be taken up on priority the Srinagar Project has been delinked from the portfolio of 23 projects and a separate set of safeguards have been suggested to be incorporated during implementation of the project including preparation and execution of Alaknande Catchment area treatment Plan above the dam site. Additional safeguards for this project will be designed in consultation with the State authorities and representatives of the Planning Commission. The project has been approved in principle.

Kidnapping of B.S.F. personnel by Bangladesh Rifles

1017. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any information to the effect that Bangladesh Rifles in the Indian border have been offered cash incentives by their Government for Kidnapping Border Security Force personnel with arms;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have initiated any action in this regard; and

(d) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Government have no information to support that Bangladesh Rifles have been offered cash incentives by the Bangladesh Government for kidnapping BSF personnel with arms.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.