

4. The Committee has also recommended legislative measures or executive action to curb degradation of the environment from uncontrolled commercial interests and on account of short-term profit motives and the inclusion of fuel and fodder supply in the minimum need programmes of the Central Government.

Diversion of dangerous asteroids

278. SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the *Times of India* on 31st October, 1980 containing the opinion expressed by Dr. Arthur C. Clark an eminent scientist who opined that dangerous asteroids can be diverted; and

(b) whether any attempt by Indian space scientists was made to study the matter; if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Electronic goods

279. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the electronic goods in which India is self-reliant and those for which India is dependent on imports;

(b) the programme of Government for being self-reliant in electronic goods specially during the Sixth plan; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has no plans for the expansion of indigenous manufacture of electronic goods and the reasons there for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix CXVI, Annexure No. 22].

Creation of separate States

280. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for creation of a separate State comprising of 16 contiguous districts of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa;

(b) whether there is also a demand for a separate state comprising of Darjeeling and some area of North Bengal; and

(c) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir; the Government are aware of these demands.

(c) These demands have been made on grounds of intra-State regional imbalances in economic development. Government are of the view that the removal of the regional imbalances in economic development in a particular State is essentially a matter to be tackled through the mechanism of planning and the creation of a separate State is no answer to the problem. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government at present for reorganisation of any state.

Setting up of heavy water plants

281. SHRI N. K. P. SALVE:

SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately decided to set up seven more