

During the last three years Border Roads Organisation has done the following Works in Sikkim relating to roads and bridges:—

(a) Different portions of 13 roads were taken up for development in the shape of formation—cutting, improvement, surfacing, resurfacing and construction of permanent works.

(b) One major bridge was constructed; and construction of three major bridges has been taken up.

Indian Naval ship Flotilla

1099. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has approached the USA and U.K. to allow the Indian Naval ship Flotilla setting out on an Indian Ocean cruise to pay a call at DIEGO GARCIA;

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

(c) what is the response from the USA and UK in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE CHARGE OF PRIME MINISTER (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Complaints from the employees of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre

1100. SHRI K. C. SEBASTIAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint from the employees of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Trivandrum to the effect that their working hours are longer than those in other Central Government offices;

(b) whether these complaints have been enquired into; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring the working hours of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre at par with those in other Central Government offices?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In a 30-day month, the working hours of the employees of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thumba, Trivandrum are five and a half hours more than the working hours of the employees in other civilian Departments of the Government of India. Taking into account the research and developmental activities of the Indian Space Research Organisation and the package of concessions like subsidised transport and canteen facilities, enhanced rate of overtime allowance and one additional holiday on every fourth Saturday in a month granted to the employees which are not allowed to the employees of other Central Government Departments, the excess of 5½ hours working time required to be put in by the employees of the Indian Space Research Organisation in a month is not considered unreasonable. The question of having parity with other Central Government Offices in this matter is not, therefore, being considered.

Power generation in the private Sector

1101. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any policy decision has been taken to open the field of power generation in private sector;

(b) whether Government propose to allow private sector to operate in steel production, coal and other major industries which are reserved for the public sector under the Industrial Policy Resolution; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?