

Commission that certain allegations made by Shri P. Murlisharan, Ex-Managing Director of the Indian Rare Earths Ltd., Bombay, which led to his resignation during the emergency have been *prima facie* established; and

(b) what steps are being taken to re-instate Shri P. Murlisharan to his original post or to appoint him to a similar post in the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANJK LAL MAN-DAL): (a) and (b) The Shah Commission has sent a report that certain allegations levelled by Shri P. Murlidharan have been partially substantiated. From the records, it cannot be said that these allegations have anything to do with his resignation. Shri Murlidharan had resigned voluntarily and had not mentioned any issues which caused him to resign. In fact, Shri Murlidharan has placed on record his gratitude to the Chairman, IRE, and the Department of Atomic Energy for the good treatment received by him during his association with the Department. Since the resignation was voluntary, the question of taking any steps to reinstate Shri Murlidharan to his original or a similar post in the public sector does not arise.

Destruction of photographs of members of the Council of Ministers of the previous Government

1273. SHRI DINESH SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to destroy the photo negatives and photographs showing members of the Council of Ministers of the previous Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI LAL K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Loktak-Hydro Electric Project

1274. SHRI Ng. TOMPOK SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has fixed any date for the commissioning of the multipurpose Loktak Hydro-Project in Manipur;

(b) whether it is a fact that the original outlay for the Project have been revised;

(c) if so, what is the difference between the original outlay and the revised one and what are the reasons for the abnormal increase in the total expenditure of the project; and

(d) whether it is a fact that local people are not being employed in the construction of the said project; if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Loktak Project is being executed by the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation, a Government of India Undertaking. The Corporation have indicated that the Project is expected to be commissioned in 1982.

(b) and (c) The original estimate of the Project for Stage I prepared by the PWD, Manipur was sanctioned in 1970 for Rs. 10.90 crores. In the light of tenders accepted for the work and orders placed for electrical equipment, the Project estimate were revised in 1974 to Rs. 32.93. crores for both Stages I & II. Of this, the "Power" component constituted Rs. 30.67 crores. The cost estimates are now being further updated.