

(a) whether Government have recently received any **representations** from Buddhists in the country in regard to a proposal made by the Japan Boudha Sangh, to construct a "SHANTI STUPA" (PEACE PAGODA); and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Prime Minister's Advice to Union Ministers to Abstain from Ostentation in Public and Private Life

*402. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY:
SHRI VITHAL GADGIL;
SHRI DEVENDRA NATH DWIVEDI;
SHRI BIPINPAL DAS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has advised his Cabinet colleagues to abstain from ostentation in public and private life; and

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

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) and (b) No formal instructions have been issued on this subject. However, in accordance with the philosophy of the Janata Party, the Government, is following a policy of avoiding ostentation, unnecessary expenditures on pomp and ceremony, and effecting greater simplicity at all levels in official life.

*403. [Transferred to the 3rd August, 1977.]

Construction of a Bridge Across the River Teesta on National Highway No. NH-31.A.

*404. SHRI KHYOMO LOTHAR;
DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRABARTI;
SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY;
SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING;
SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Scheme to construct an alternative bridge across the Teesta River has been finalised;

(b) if so, by when the construction work is likely to commence; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to realign the existing National Highway 31-A?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) and (b) The question of constructing an alternative bridge across the Teesta River is linked with the proposal of constructing a dam on the River. The proposal has not yet been finalised.

(c) No, Sir.

Reservation of Quota in Central Services for Backward Classes and Minority Communities

*405. SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV;
SHRI RAMANAND YADAV;
SHRI RANBIR SINGH;
SHRI BHAGWAN DIN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reserve certain quota of posts in Central Services for persons belonging to the backward classes and Minority Communities, and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.