

STRENGTHENING OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

-464. SHRI S. D. MISRA :

CHAUOHARY A. MOHAMMAD : SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI v SHRI H. K. KAUL : SHRI NAWAL KISHORE : SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the steps taken or being taken for strengthening the district administrations in pursuance of the discussions held between her on 23rd May, 1970 with the Chief Ministers of various States in connection with communal tension in certain parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : In the course of informal discussions with some of the Chief Ministers on May 23, 1970 regarding the communal situation, there was general agreement on the need to strengthen the district administration. The measures suggested for the consolidation of the State Governments include the following :

(i) In the : communally sensitive areas, tested officers known for their sound judgement, alertness and ability to deal effectively with communal situations, should be posted and such district postings should be made more attractive.

(ii) Adequate staffing of the districts, subdivisions and police stations concerned should be ensured.

(iii) Adequate arrangements for the collection of intelligence, its prompt assessment and utilisation should be made.

(iv) Adequate armed police reserves should be so located that these areas can obtain reinforcements without delay. The State Governments are examining these suggestions.

INDIA OFFICE LIBRARY

*465. SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : SHRI S. D. MISRA : SHRI B. K. KAUL :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state :

(a) the progress that has been made in acquiring the India Office Library in London; and

(b) what are the hurdles even now which stand in the way of the acquisition and what are the prospects of their solution ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (SHRI A. K. KISHU) : (a) and (b) Efforts have been continuously made by the Government of India with the Government of U.K. for acquiring the contents of India Office Library, London. A draft agreement for arbitration is under discussion with the Government of U.K. One main reason for the delay is the prolonged discussion with the Government of U.K. about the basis on which a settlement can be made.

MAHANADI AS A NATIONAL WATERWAY

*466. SHRI N. G. GORAY : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Inland Water Transport Committee has suggested that Mahanadi in Orissa be declared a National Waterway;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted the said suggestion; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI K. RAGHURAMIAH) : (a) No, Sir. The Government have not yet received the recommendations of the Inland Water Transport Committee in respect of Orissa.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.