

physico-geographical conditions, potentials and priorities. Attention in this connection is invited to para 6 of the "Fourth Five Year Plan 1969-73". No specific request for a change in this procedure has been received from the States.

(b) Does not arise.

THORIUM DEPOSITS IN TAMIL NADU

1409. SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHI-DEEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Geologists have recently found Thorium deposits near Tirupattur in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether experiments of its better use for atomic purposes has been made; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) As a result of the survey carried out by the Atomic Minerals Division of the Department of Atomic Energy in the area, some radio-activity due to uranium and thorium has been found in the carbonatite deposits at Sevattur near Tirupattur in the Dharmapuri District of Tamil Nadu. Further investigations including laboratory tests are in progress. It will not be possible to evaluate the economic possibilities of the deposits until these investigations are completed.

TRAGEDY IN BALAKUCHI

1410. SHRI Inder Singh : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the recent devastating tragedy in Balakuchi, Government propose to undertake a fresh survey of the whole region to find out if new road alignments are called for to avoid such incurrence

(b) whether new roads are also proposed to be laid to Badrinath;

(c) how long it will take to complete the present repairs of roads; and

(d) whether adequate precaution has been taken to ensure that possibilities of lake burst are avoided ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) The examination of Rishikesh-Joshimath-Badrinath road carried out so far reveals that the road system is basically sound and no whole-sale realignment is called for. It is therefore not considered necessary to undertake a survey of the whole region.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Except for a stretch between Pipalkoti and Joshimath where the road has to be realigned and rebuilt, the repair work was planned to be completed by September, 1970. The entire road was expected to be available for fair-weather traffic by December 1970. However, the restoration work has received a serious set-back due to continuous heavy rains and further floods in the Alaknanda and its tributaries. Efforts are being made to complete the restoration works as early as possible.

(d) The Gohana lake which over-flowed in the recent floods has got silted up. However, land slides in the Himalayan ranges—a common feature during rainy season—occasionally result in the formation of temporary lakes, which burst due to the pressure of rising water. It is difficult to predict where exactly such temporary lakes would be formed. As a precautionary measure, realigned portion of the road is proposed to be built at a level much higher than the river bed to avoid the possibility of its submergence.

DISTRIBUTION OF CHINESE PAMPHLET BY PAK PLANE

1411. SHRI Inder Singh :
SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Pakistan plane had recently intruded into the Indian territory in Rajasthan and had distributed leaflets in Chinese language;

(b) whether Government have confirmed from the Government of Rajasthan that the distribution of pamphlets was done by the Pak Plane; and

(c) if not, how and with what motive these pamphlets were distributed ?