

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 ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) to (c) There were some reports in the press regarding air-dropping of Chinese language leaflets in certain parts of Rajasthan. Investigations made in the matter have revealed that the pamphlets and leaflets were in the Chinese language and were critical of Mao Tse Tung and his policies. They could not, therefore, have come from Pakistan. It has also been established that they were not dropped by any aircraft. In all probability, they came in meteorological balloons and were intended for the mainland of China but had drifted into India. Such material has previously been found in other parts of India.

MADAM BINH'S STATEMENTS IN INDIA

1412. SHRI INDER SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Madam Binh during her stay in India has been making statements prejudicial to the relation India is having with friendly countries;

(b) whether making such statements is in contravention of the Vienna Convention, and

(c) the circumstances in which the Government of India permitted Madam Binh to make such statements in India ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. Her statements reflected only the well known policies of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and National Liberation Front of South Vietnam which have been expressed in many world capitals. Government do not share the view that they have in any way prejudiced India's relation with friendly countries.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

ANTI-INDIAN DEMONSTRATION AND INDIAN BUSINESSMEN IN SAIGON

1413. SHRI INDER SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that violent anti-Indian demonstrations after an attack on Indian Consulate are continuing in Saigon;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian businessmen have been put to extremely odd position and their business has struck an all time low; and

(c) if so, what further steps the Government of India have taken to ensure adequate safety for the life, property and business of Indians in Saigon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) Some stray anti-Indian demonstrations continue to be reported. According to the information available to Government the great majority of Indians and Indian concerns are carrying on their life normally.

(c) Government have drawn the attention of the Government in Saigon to their duty to protect the lives, business and property of Indian nationals.

PRODUCTION OF ATOM BOMB

1414. SHRI INDER SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tarapur Atomic Plant and the Rana Pratap Sagar Power plant are capable of producing 400 kg. of plutonium and Kalpakkam Plant another 200 kg. of plutonium;

(b) whether, from these plutonium, India can produce at least 60 plutonium bombs of the Hiroshima type; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to manufacture such bombs ?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) The Tarapur Atomic Power Station is expected to produce about 115 kg. of plutonium per annum. The two units of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station will together be capable of producing annually about 180 kg. and one unit of the Madras Atomic Power Station about 90 kg.

(b) and (c) The use of plutonium for bombs depends on its isotopic composition. We have a commitment that plutonium produced at Tarapur and Rajasthan will be used only for peaceful purposes. Both the power plants are under bilateral safeguards. The policy of the Government of India to develop atomic