

†[CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

136. SHRI RAM SAHAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any statewide statistics regarding capital punishment have been collected by his Ministry; and

(b) if so, whether according to these statistics, the number of capital punishment has decreased or increased in recent years?]

गृह-कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल) : (क) जी नहीं, श्रीमान ।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.]

‡DETENTION OF INDIANS BY PAKISTANIS

120. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on February 21, 1967, 27 Indian nationals of Govindapur Village in Cachar district of Assam were held up by Pakistanis; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) As reported by the State Government, 27 Indian residents of Govindapur Village, District Cachar, were rounded up and taken to East Pakistan by men of the East Pakistan Rifles on 21st February, 1967. All these persons returned to their village the same evening. A protest was lodged by the Sector Commander of

the Border Security Force with his counterpart in East Pakistan.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

LOW PRODUCTION OF SUGAR

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS (Orissa): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Food and Agriculture to the alarming reports regarding the prospects of low production of sugar in the coming crushing season, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this connection and the current shortage of sugar in the country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, reports received from the State Governments indicate that there will be a decline in the area under sugarcane for the 1967-68 crushing season in the main sugar producing States varying from 14 to 30 per cent except in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra where it is reported that there will be a marginal increase in the area under cane. If the monsoon continues to be satisfactory, the shortfall in production arising out of the drop in acreage may to some extent be made up by higher production.

On account of the steep fall in production of over 13 lakh tonnes during the current year as compared to last year, the monthly sugar quotas of the States had to be reduced from an aggregate of 2.52 lakh tonnes per month allotted up to February, 1967 to 1.57 lakh tonnes per month from May, 1967. The State Governments were, therefore, asked to impose the minimum cut in the scale of distribution of sugar to domestic consumers by imposing a larger cut in the

† [] English translation.

‡ Transferred from the 26th July, 1967.