

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large number of displaced persons whose property claims have not been considered and are pending disposal for long time;

(b) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, what is the number of such claims;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of such claims have either been destroyed by white ants or are otherwise missing from the office of the Chief Claims Commissioner ; and

(d) what action Government propose to take with respect to such missing claims and for the speedy disposal of the pending claims ?

THE MINISTER FOR REHABILITATION (SHRI A. P. JAIN) : (a), (b) & second part of (d). About 37,000 property sheets pertaining to urban and rural houses including 28,000 whose claimants are untraceable or which have been rejected *ex-parte* and about 88,000 property sheets relating to agricultural land are pending verification. Special instructions have been issued to expedite disposal of the pending claims.

(c) & first part of (d). A very small number of claims—less than a dozen was damaged by white ants and have since been reconstructed. It is not possible to give the number of claims mislaid or untraceable which also is very small. Occasionally when a claim is not available, it is reconstructed from the available record.

ASSAM BORDER FIRING

*319. SHRI L. BOROOAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item headed " Assam Border Firing " published in *The Sunday Hindu* and *Standard*, dated 30th November, 1952 regarding harassment of Indian nationals by the Pakistan nationals and Pakistan Army on the Indo-Pakistan border.

(b) whether it is a fact that recently firing incidents took place in areas on the Indo-Pakistan border of the State of Assam.

(c) whether it is a fact that the Pakistan nationals and the Pakistan army are causing harassment to the Indian citizens, namely, the Khasi tribals residing in Assam near the Indo-Pakistan border;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Pakistan nationals assisted by the Pakistan army have forcibly taken away the paddy grown by the Khasi tribals living in Assam near the Indo-Pakistan border ; and

(e) whether the Pakistan army arrested any Khasi tribal men and women by trespassing on the Indian territory and subjected them to insult and indignity ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A.K. CHANDA) : (a) to (d). There have recently been several incidents on the borders of Assam and East Bengal in which Pakistani nationals and armed forces trespassed into Indian territory, opened fire on Indian nationals and harvested and removed paddy.

(e) 40 persons, including 35 women, are reported to have been arrested mostly for entering Pakistani territory without passports and visas and for smuggling. They are in the custody of Pakistani authorities.

MINORITY COMMUNITY IN TRIPURA

73. MUNSHI ARMAN ALI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any deterioration in the position of the minority community in Tripura since the time of the introduction of the passport system;

(b) how many criminal cases have been lodged by the minority community in Tripura since that time;

(c) how many houses of the minority community and of other people in Tripura were occupied by the displaced persons and how many of them have been got vacated with the help of the Police; and

(d) how many complaints have been lodged with the Minister for Minority Affairs by the members of the minority community in Tripura and what steps have been taken to redress their grievances?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU) : (a) No.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected.

(d) Three complaints were received by the Minister for Minorities. These have been referred to the Tripura Government, for enquiry.

RESERVE FUNDS

74. SHRI P.C. BHANJ DEO : Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether depreciation reserve funds have been set up for Hirakud, Bhakra-Nangal and Damodar valley multi-purpose river valley schemes;

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to set up such funds;

(c) whether the funds will be raised from the revenues of the State Governments concerned; and

(d) what will be annual rate of depreciation on capital outlay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING & IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J.S.L. HATHI) : (a) As regards Bhakra-Nangal and DV Projects the reply is in the negative. Information relating to Hirakud Dam Project is awaited from the Government of Orissa.

(b) The reply is in the affirmative for Bhakra-Nangal and DV Projects. Information relating to Hirakud Dam

Project is awaited from the Government of Orissa.

(c) *Bhakra-Nangal Project*.—Funds will be raised from the State Revenues;

• *D.V. Project*.—Funds will be raised from the Corporation Revenues;

Hirakud Dam Project.—Information is awaited from the Government of Orissa.

(d) *Bhakra-Nangal Project*.—Tentative rates on which depreciation has been calculated for the preparation of the project estimate are:

	Per cent.
Civil works	1.33
Elec. works	1.87
Transmission	2.09
Distribution	2.70
Bulk	2.50

Damodar Valley Project.—The rates have not yet been calculated.

Hirakud Dam Project.—Information is awaited from the Government of Orissa.

The information relating to Hirakud Dam Project will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as it is received from the State Government.

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT CONTROLLERS

75. BABU GOPINATH SINGH : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what procedure is followed by Government in making appointments of Assistant Controllers in the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports and its subordinate regional offices; and

(b) the number of Assistant Controllers appointed during the current year?