

INDIA'S NUCLEAR POLICY

881. SHRI S. D. MISRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of Pakistan's open declaration that it will use American arms to force India to settle the Kashmir issue and also in view of China's latest achievement in the nuclear field Government propose to go nuclear; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government believe that the present policy of developing our scientific and technological capability in expanding our programme for the peaceful uses of atomic energy is in the best overall interests of the nation. In this matter, as in others Government keep their policies under constant review taking into account the needs of our national defence and security.

PROVIDING BUS SERVICE FROM AND TO DHAMETA BY BEAS DAM PROJECT

882. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 474 given in the Rajya Sabha on May 7, 1970 and state :

(a) Whether investigations in the matter of providing a free Bus service from and to Dhameta by the Beas Dam Project authorities for their workers, have since been completed; and

(b) if so, the result thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The investigations reveal that villages like Annor Reban, Dhameta Samkad, Katrah and Khatiar are scattered and lie on the other side of the river and there is no proper approach from the Project site except from the Coffer Dam constructed previously and removed during the rainy season this year. Further, there is no jeepable/motorable road from the village Dhameta to the Coffer Dam. As such even if the Coffer Dam is reconstructed after the monsoons, it would not be possible to provide any transport facilities to the residents of the villages across the river. A Government ferry has already been provided for the facilities of workman coming across the river.

The question of plying bus service from Dhameta to Reh was also investigated but this road is motorable only during the dry season. It is a very uneven road in hilly terrain having steep gradients and sharp turns. It is not, therefore, considered safe to ply departmental buses on this route.

883. [Transferred to the 2nd Decen.ber, 1970].

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMME

884. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state ;

(a) the number of villages which will be electrified by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan in Orissa according to the revised schedule under rural electrification programme; and

(b) what will be its position in India in comparison to other States in percentage of villages electrified by the end of that plan ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) The revised target suggested at the Conference of Members of Parliament from Orissa held at village Gadasilla on 6-10-70. is the energisation of 20,000 pump-sets and electrification of 4,000 villages by the end of Fourth Plan;

(b) State-wise targets have been set only for energisation of pumpsets, since the emphasis in rural electrification is on the provision of irrigation facilities. It is, therefore not possible to assess exactly the number of villages that would be electrified by the end of the Fourth Plan.

UPPER AGE LIMIT FOR I.A.S.

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments have urged upon the Central Government to raise the upper age limit to IAS examination from 24 to 26 years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the A.R.C. had also made a similar recommendation in the matter; and

(c) if so, whether any decision has been taken and if so, the nature thereof ?