

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Information regarding the cost and production of the French Plant in Pierrelatte has not been published. However, according to Mr. Leonard Beaton, a leading British science writer, the French Government had estimated a requirement of £288 million, (around Rs. 600 crores) for the gaseous diffusion plant at Pierrelatte, including the cost of the research and development work connected with it.

**Bombing of Hanoi-Haiphong region by U.S. Planes**

- \*324. **Shri P. C. Borooah:**  
**Shri M. N. Swamy:**  
**Shri D. D. Mantri:**  
**Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:**  
**Shri K. C. Pant:**  
**Shri Basappa:**  
**Shri Kolla Venkaiah:**  
**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:**  
**Shrimati Renuka Barkataki:**  
**Shri M. K. Kumaran:**  
**Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:**  
**Shri Umamath:**  
**Shri Madhu Limaye:**  
**Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:**

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether India expressed 'deep concern' over the bombing of Hanoi and the port of Haiphong by the U.S. Planes on the 29th June, 1966; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of U.S.A. thereto?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh):** (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India expressed deep concern and distress over US bombing of areas in the vicinity of Hanoi and Haiphong.

(b) The U.S.A. Government's position has been publicly stated. They claim that the bombing is necessitated by military requirements but they would be prepared to stop it if there is an indication from the other side that they would stop infiltration and hostile activities in South Vietnam.

**Samadhi of Maharaja Ranjit Singh**

- \*325. **Shri D. D. Mantri:**  
**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:**

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the Secretary, Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee that precious stones have been removed from the Samadhi of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in Lahore; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

**The Minister of External Affairs (Shri Swaran Singh):** (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Representations have been made from time to time to the Government of Pakistan on the general question of improving condition of Sikh shrines in West Pakistan which is unsatisfactory and the need for their proper maintenance and management. On the specific complaint about the removal of precious stones from the Samadhi of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in Lahore, further information is awaited from the Secretary of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee and, if found necessary, this specific matter would also be taken up with the Government of Pakistan.

**Meeting of State Ministers of Information and Broadcasting**

- \*326. **Shri Hem Raj:**  
**Shri Daljit Singh:**  
**Shri P. C. Borooah:**  
**Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:**

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of the Ministers of Information and Broadcasting of different States was held recently at Delhi; and

(b) if so, the subject discussed and the conclusions arrived thereat?