

(d) the heads under which it has been spent ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Government is aware of developments of the Gas Centrifuge process in several countries for enrichment of U-235. Whether it will be economically competitive with the diffusion process is still to be demonstrated.

(b) A decision on the process to be adopted in India will be taken after the technical and economic aspects of the different processes are studied in detail. Preliminary studies in this regard have been initiated recently.

(c) and (d). Preliminary studies now in progress are part of the overall Research & Development programme of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and the amount so far spent on the studies is, therefore, not available separately. As these studies have been initiated only recently on appreciable expenditure has been incurred so far.

**Survey of Underground Water Courses for Peaceful uses of Underground Nuclear Explosions**

6219. SHRI V.N.P. SINGH : Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state whether, in view of the fact that the Atomic Energy Commission is possessed of the problem of peaceful uses of underground nuclear explosions, Government have started survey of underground water courses so that there may be no delays on this count in experiments with underground nuclear blasts ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF

HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : The Atomic Energy Commission is studying situations under which peaceful nuclear explosions carried out underground can be of economic benefit to India without causing environmental hazards.

**Ineffective A.I.R. Broadcast to Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and China.**

6220. SHRI R. P. YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the A.I.R. Broadcast the news and programmes in foreign languages as of Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and China ;

(b) if so, the names of Radio Stations and their timings ;

(c) whether despite all these efforts anti-India feeling is mounting up in Nepal ; and

(d) if so, further steps proposed to be taken in making the broadcasts more effective ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement containing the required information is enclosed.

(c) This Ministry is not aware of this.

(d) In addition to the existing two transmissions in the Nepali Service a transmission in the evening will be introduced shortly to extend the service.

*Statement*

The timings of the Nepali, Chinese, Tibetan, Sikkimese and Bhutanese services from AIR are as follows :

S.No.	Name of language	Name of the station	Duration of the Programmes broadcast
1	2	3	4
1.	Chinese	Delhi  (External Services Division)	(i) 0330—0430 hrs. IST (News from 0345-0352)  (ii) 1745—1845 hrs. IST (News from 1800-1807)