

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) The question is being examined in all its implications.

(b) Does not arise.

Energy Produced in Tarapore Reactor

541. SHRI BASWANT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) how many Megawatts of energy is being produced in Tarapore Reactor ; and

(b) the reasons for the stoppage of Tarapore Atomic Plant during some time past ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) During October 1969, 128 million units of electricity were produced.

(b) The supply during the pre-commissioning period had necessarily to be intermittent as the reactors had to be shut off on different occasions for intensive checking. Some interruption of power supply occurred in August 1969 due to breakdown in the Switchyard operated and maintained by the Maharashtra State Electricity Board. This breakdown was primarily due to saline pollution and humid atmosphere.

India's Imports

542. SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision for allowing an increase in imports ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the criteria for selecting the parties and industrial concerns which will be allowed such increased imports and the details about the items to be imported according to this decision ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) to (c). In formulating the import policy, item-

wise scrutiny is undertaken, in consultation with the technical authorities concerned, to ensure that import is allowed only in respect of those items which are not manufactured in the country and are essentially required. Representations for the grant of licences for higher values or for a change in the item-wise import policy are considered by the Committee set up by the Government which include technical advisers. These Committee examine each case on its merits with a view to allow essential import for maximising production.

Direct contact by the Indian External Affairs Minister with Heads of Foreign States

543. SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain Members of Parliament have protested to the Prime Minister against the Foreign Minister's establishing direct contacts with Heads of States and thereby alienating the sympathy which his counter-parts would have in those countries ; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. Only one Member of Parliament has written to the Prime Minister on this subject.

(b) Ministers, while visiting foreign countries at the invitation of their Governments, very often call on the Heads of Government/State as a matter of courtesy which is a well recognised diplomatic practice. It is all the more so in the case of the Foreign Minister who may have to discuss matters of bilateral and international importance.

Pak. Readiness for Talks with India

544. SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL :
SHRI R. BARUA :
SHRI N. K. SOMANI :
SHRI HUKAM CHAND
KACHWAI :
SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH ;
SHRIMATI SUSHILA
ROHATGI :