

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Defence have agreed in principle and offered 4 pieces of vacant lands admeasuring 0.0691 acres near the proposed over-bridge, 0.7461 acres falling under the same, 1.5 acres in the north of over-bridge and 2.33 acres located east of the railway line on payment of current market value. The State Government also accepted the offer of the land. But the State Government later on expressed their inability to adhere to conditions of the offer and has requested to transfer the lands as per changed alignment marked in the plan forwarded by them. This request has not been accepted on security grounds and the State Government has again been requested to convey the acceptance of offer of the land as per earlier agreed alignment for issue of Government sanction for transfer of the land.

[Translation]

Foreign Universities

506 SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether any proposal to allow foreign universities to function in India is under consideration of the Government

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SARKIA) : (a) to (c) At present, there is no policy to regulate the functioning of foreign universities in the country. However, necessary guidelines for regulation of foreign educational institutions are being framed.

[English]

Nuclear Programme of Pakistan

507 DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY
SHRI PINAKI MISRA
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA
SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH
SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to US Press reports during the first week

of April, 1996 regarding acquisition of materials and blue prints for building nuclear bombs by Pakistan from foreign sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether China is extending its help to Pakistan in the development of latter's nuclear programme;

(d) if so, whether Pakistan is carrying on its nuclear programme for the development of sophisticated nuclear weapons;

(e) if so, whether the Government have urged upon the Chinese Government to refrain themselves from such activities;

(f) if so, when and the reaction of Chinese Government thereto; and

(g) the steps the Government propose to take to defend the country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government have been following reports on Pakistan's acquisition of 5,000 specialised ring magnets from China for use in gas centrifuges to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons. Government remains concerned about the clandestine nuclear weapons programme of Pakistan. Our views regarding supplies of critical nuclear technologies to Pakistan have also been conveyed to the concerned countries.

(f) The Chinese Government claims that such transfer amount only to legitimate "peaceful nuclear cooperation".

(g) Government of India is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard its security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

[Translation]

Coal Permits

508 SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state

(a) the names of the persons to whom coal permits were issued during the last three years alongwith the quantity and quality of the coal, State-wise;

(b) the details of rates of permit issued according to the quality of coal; and

(c) the rules laid-down to issue these permits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) There is no system of issue of coal permits and no such

permits have been issued during the last 3 years. There is also no VIP quotas for supply of coal.

For the grades for which the prices are notified by the Government of India, the sale by the coal companies is as per this notified price only. In other grades of coal the sales are in accordance with the prices as fixed by the coal companies themselves. Some sale of coal is also made under the Liberalised Sales Scheme as well for obtaining test bid prices by the coal companies by inviting open tenders.

Distribution of coal is done in accordance with the provisions of the Colliery Control Order for the grades which continue to be governed by it. The distribution of A.B.C. grades of non-coking coal and coking coal is being made in accordance with linkages established by the coal companies and also sponsorships given to the consumers by various Central and State sponsoring authorities.

The consumer-wise details of coal supplies during the last three years are not kept centrally at Coal India Limited and the collection of this data from a large number of collieries and the areas will take considerable time. It is felt that the time and effort required in collection and compilation of these details may not be commensurate with the purpose sought to be achieved.

Coal Mines in Meghalaya

509. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether coal mines are being mined in Meghalaya from which about 60 lakh tonnes of coal is being exported to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the total revenue earnings therefrom;

(c) whether safety measures are being followed in these mines; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d) : In Meghalaya most of the coal mining is being done traditionally by tribals without observance of any provisions of mining laws. Coal India Ltd. is developing one mining in Simsong and all stipulations of mining laws and safety measures are being strictly observed. The coal produced in Meghalaya is to some extent consumed by the local people and the balance is either exported to Bangladesh or sold to up country consumers. Since the export of coal from Meghalaya is now decanalised, no details regarding the quantity of coal exported to Bangladesh or the revenue earnings therefrom, are available in the Ministry of Coal.

Production of Indigenous Defence Equipments

510. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air Chief Marshall has emphasized recently, on the need to draw the attention of the Government and public towards the production of indigenous defence equipments, so that dependence on imported defence equipments could be reduced; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A national mission has already been launched for enhancing self-reliance in Defence systems with a goal of increasing acquisition of weapons and defence systems of indigenous origin to the level of 70% of total annual defence acquisition by the year 2005.

Incidents of Firing on Borders

511. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT
SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has intensified military pressure on the Indian borders and increased incidents of firing on the Indian territory continuously;

(b) if so, the number of times Pakistani army resorted to firing on border areas and the loss of life and property caused therein during the last three years;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to give a befitting reply to the provocative actions of Pakistan;

(d) the number of soldiers killed in Jammu and Kashmir region while discharging their duties during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken by Government for the welfare of the families of the deceased soldiers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU) : (a) Unprovoked firing across the Line of Control and International Border in J & K by Pakistani troops has been a recurring phenomenon over the years. However, during the current year there has been a marginal increase in firings by Pakistani troops.

(b) During the last three and half years, i.e. from 1993 upto June 96, Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing across International Border/LOC in J&K on 8667 occasions in which our troops and civilians suffered some casualties.