

[*Translation*]

Impact of US Sanctions on Space Programme

*411. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the likely impact of sanctions slapped by US on the space programme of India;

(b) the extent to which US has been assisting in the space programme of India;

(c) whether the Government have increased the grants for space programme after the announcement of said sanctions;

(d) if so, the extent to which grants have been increased; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) The ongoing Satellite and Launch Vehicle Projects scheduled for launch in the next one year will not be affected by the sanctions imposed by US. The Department's assessment is that the impact of US sanctions on the future missions could be only marginal in terms of schedule and cost over-run. The Department, however, has already expanded its alternate courses of action in terms of indigenous development of critical items has already been accelerated substantially.

(b) The role of US is mainly limited to commercial supply of a few components to Indian space projects for reasons of cost-effectiveness. Recently, there has also been a co-operative arrangement between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of USA and the Department of Space (DOS) and Department of Science & Technology (DST) of Government of India for scientific co-operation in the areas of earth and atmospheric sciences. In addition, an American company M/s. Space Imaging-EOSAT, USA markets the data abroad from Indian Remote Sensing Satellites under a commercial arrangement with M/s Antrix, the commercial arm of Department of Space.

(c) No, Sir. The funds provided for the Department in 1998-99 is in accordance with the programmatic requirements of Space programme.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The cost impact of the Sanction is not expected to be much for the current year. Hence, the Department has not sought any increase in the current year's budget after the announcement of sanctions.

[*English*]

Pakistan's Entry in A.R.F.

*412. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has strongly objected to some countries' move to allow Pakistan's entry into Asian Regional Forum (ARF);

(b) if so, whether India has conveyed its views to these countries which are members of the ARF;

(c) if so, the main objections raised by India; and

(d) the extent to which it has been accepted by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The admission of new members to ARF requires consensus among the members. There is no such consensus among the member countries regarding Pakistan's participation. The ARF has accordingly decided not to invite Pakistan for the ARF meeting scheduled to take place at the end of this month. This decision was formally conveyed to us on June 18, 1998 in Delhi.

Water Management

*413. SHRI D.S. ABIRE:
DR. SAROJA V.:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implements in the country to assist the State Government to augment and harness the water resources;