

Global Disarmament

4169. SHRIMATI JASYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have called for global disarmament of nuclear weapons;

(b) if so, the countries supported the view expressed thereon by India;

(c) the reaction of the other countries thereto; and

(d) the views expressed by USA in the matter?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. We support the elimination of all nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework.

(b) to (d) Our position is supported by all NAM countries as well as some others. The USA has not agreed with the proposal for elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework.

Farm Commodities

4170. DR. T. SUBBARMAI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a plan for quantitative restrictions on farm commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the list has been cleared by the Ministry of Commerce;

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be cleared and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (e) India has presented to WTO a plan for the elimination of residual Quantitative Restrictions on imports, including those of agricultural products, which are currently maintained for balance of payments purposes. Three phases of decreasing durations have been suggested: Financial Year 1997-2000-(I Phase), Financial Year 2000-2002 (II Phase) and Financial Year 2002-2003 (III Phase). Items of critical

nature like cereals, coarse cereals, edible oils and oilseeds, apple, oranges other citrus fruits, pepper etc., are in the third phase.

2. The list for phasing out quantitative Restrictions was filed with WTO by Ministry of Commerce last year, after it was prepared in consultation with Ministry of Agriculture & other concerned Ministries.

Dead Bodies

4171. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government consider to arrange the deportation of the dead bodies of non-resident Indians who die while working in foreign countries on free of air charges; and

(b) the reactions of the Government thereto?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) There are over 45 lakh Indian nationals living abroad of whom approximately 30 lakh are residing in the countries of the gulf region. As per the current practice in the Gulf countries, the mortal remains of deceased Indian nationals are transported at the expense of the foreign employer/sponsor under the obligations stipulated in the employment contract. As regards Indian nationals residing in other countries, the mortal remains are expected to be transported to India at the cost of the next of kin of the deceased. These arrangements have so far been working satisfactorily.

[Translation]

Reservation for Sportsmen

4172. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jahanabad): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number/percentage of posts reserved for the sportsmen in the Ministries of the Union Government, Ministry-wise and category-wise;

(b) whether the extent of foresaid reservation is adequate;

(c) whether the Government propose to include the martial arts like Judo-Karate in the sportsmen quota;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) there is no reservation for appointment of sportspersons under the Central Government. However, a maximum of 5% of direct recruitment vacancies in all Group 'C' and 'D' posts in various Ministries/Departments /Offices under the Central Government can be filled by appointment of meritorious sportspersons.

(c) and (d) Judo and Karate have already been included in the list of games/sports which qualify meritorious sports persons for consideration for appointment to Group C and D posts under the Central Government.

(e) Does not arise.

Underground Water

4173. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS
PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey regarding replenishable ground water available in the country at present;

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof, State-wise;

(c) the funds incurred thereon, State-wise;

(d) the irrigation potential being achieved by ground water in each State; and

(e) the measures taken for the maximum utilisation and recharging of ground water in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the assessment made by the Central Ground Water Board upto 1995, the annual replenishable ground water resources of the country have been assessed as 43.19 million hectare meters. The statewise details are given in Statement I.

(c) No separate head of account for this work is maintained as it is done as a part of normal activity of the Central Ground Water Board.

(d) Irrigation potential created in each State upto the end of 8th Five year Plan is given in Statement-II.

(e) Water being a State subject, measures for utilisation and recharging of ground water are taken by the State Governments. The steps taken by the Union Government to, inter alia, recharge of ground water include:—

(i) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(ii) circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/ Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(iii) Circulation of a Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories including Karnataka to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

(iv) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on studies on recharge of ground water in Maharashtra, NCT of Delhi, Union Territory of Chandigarh and Karnataka.

(v) Formulation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to assist the State Government in artificial recharge of ground water. The scheme is at consultation stage.