

Ill effects of nuclear test

†2339. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the type of ill effects likely to be caused as a result of nuclear tests conducted in the country; and

(b) whether such tests can be carried out some other places also besides Rajasthan, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Fully contained underground nuclear tests as conducted by India have no ill effects on nature or the environment.

(b) Such tests can be undertaken only at those places, which fulfil certain attributes with respect to properties of rock strata, geohydrology, isolation of the place from populated area etc.

Prevention of nuclear radiation

2340. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem, "Pill to prevent N-radiation" appearing in the Times of India, dated the 14th June, 2002;

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

(c) whether any study has been/is being conducted in the matter so as to find out any pharmaceutical agent to prevent/counteract the effect of radiation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is well known that potassium iodide is a good prophylactic agent which brings about a reduction in the uptake of radioactive iodine by thyroid if it is administered promptly.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.