

[1 March,2001]

RAJYASABHA

Bringing back of Koh-e-Noor

766. SHRISUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the progress made so far to bring back the Koh-e-Noor diamond from U.K. to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): Government are in touch with the concerned authorities in the British Government through our High Commission in London. Government are continuing to explore ways and means for obtaining a satisfactory resolution of the matter.

Extradition of Bhopal Gas Tragedy accused

† 767. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have requested the American Government for extradition of ex-Chairman of the Union Carbide Corporation in India to appear before the Indian courts in connection with Bhopal Gas Tragedy which occurred in 1984;

(b) if so, when this request was made and the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(c) what is the latest position of this case and by when he is likely to be extradited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Based on the advice given by Attorney General, the Government of India has sought the opinion of a US Attorney on the issue of the maintainability of the extradition request according to the American municipal laws.

Signing of CTBT

768. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any opinion to sign the CTBT;

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.