

Statement of Mr. Strobe Talbott regarding Nuclear Status to India/Pakistan

1331. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Strobe Talbott declared as reported in the Statesman dated the 13th November, 1998, on the 12th November, 1998 that, "We do not, and will not concede, even by implication, that India and Pakistan have established themselves as nuclear weapons States under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty"; and

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

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty defines a nuclear weapon State as one which conducted a nuclear explosion before January 1, 1967. This obviously does not apply to India, which in any case has not signed the NPT. However, Government have stated that India is a nuclear weapon state in the sense that we possess nuclear weapons. This is simply a statement of fact. It is neither a conferment that we seek, nor is it a status for others to grant.

Film Festival in Mumbai

1332. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the film festival scheduled to be held in November-December, 1998 in Mumbai has since been postponed/cancelled; and

(b) if so, the details of circumstances leading thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) The film festival which was scheduled to be held in Mumbai in November-December, 1998 is organised by the Mumbai Academy of Moving Images (MAMI), a private body. The Central Government is not involved in the organising of this festival. However, it has been ascertained from the Film Federation of India that the festival has been postponed due to paucity of funds.

Installation of Common Towers in the Country

1333. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the policy decisions of Government for installation of common towers in the country for giving microwave facilities for telecommunication and television facilities from the same tower;

(b) the cost of reduction estimated in this behalf;

(c) which States were selected to provide this facility;

(d) the number of such towers that were installed in Himachal Pradesh and with what result in each case; and

(e) whether all these towers are functioning properly, if not, the reasons therefore and whether any representation has been received in this behalf; if so, the details thereof and by when these towers would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) Utilisation of Department of Telecommunication (DoT) tower for TV transmitters antenna is done wherever possible subject to suitability for both Doordarshan and DoT.

(b) Cost of a guyed mast, which is about 1 lakh, is the saving possible by

consisting Low Power Transmitter (LPT)/ Very Low Power Transmitter (VLPT) projects with DoT Towers.

(c) Himachal Pradesh.

(d) and (e) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

In Himachal Pradesh, 9 locations were selected. Details are given below:—

VLPTs

Palampur Thanedar	VLPT functioning at DoT premises.
Bijli Mahadev	Decision for cositing the VLPT at DoT premises still exists, not yet installed.
Dalhousie Chunaghai	Not installed at DoT premises due to site constraints.
Ajhufort	DoT sharing VLPT site, VLPT functional.
Nehri, Tissa Ashapuri	Doordarshan has proposed to DoT authorities for co-setting VLPTs at DoT premises. Functioning may start within two months after receipt of DoT approval.

Representation in this regard have been received from time to time details are as under:—

Letter dated 5.5.1998 from President Himachal Vikas Congress regarding locations at Naina Devi, Chunaghai, Ashapuri, Bijli Madadev.

Letter dated 19.9.1998 from Shri Kashmir Singh Rana, Ex-MLA regarding location at Surani in Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh. No scheme at present for setting up of LPT/VLPT at Surani.

Location of VLPT, Naina Devi is yet to be sanctioned.

Offensive characterisation of Freedom Fighters in Film "JINNAH"

1334. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the offensive characterisation of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and other freedom fighters besides distortion of history in a film "Jinnah" recently screened in London film festival and invited to a film festival in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to review the film before it is screened in Kerala film festival; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (c) The Central Board of Film Certification has not received any application for certification of the film 'Jinnah' so far. According to the Chalachitra Academy of Kerala, which organises the International Film Festival of Kerala '99, the film 'Jinnah' has not been invited for screening in the Festival. The question of reviewing the film will arise only if it is received for screening in the Festival.

Stoppage of Telecast of Telugu Films

1335. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the reasons for which the Hyderabad Doordarshan Satellite Channel (DD8) had stopped telecast of Telugu movies from November, 1, for some days?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): Prasar Bharati has reported that due to financial constraints,