

has been drawn to an article captioned 'Inside Radiation Zone' which appeared in Delhi edition of Indian Express, dated 21st June, 1998 regarding hazards suffered by the miners of Uranium mines and people of Jaduguda area in Bihar;

(b) the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to ameliorate the lot of these hapless uranium miners and their families from hazards of radiation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The article is not based on facts. The Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy, operates the uranium ore mines and mill in the Jaduguda area of Bihar. No miners engaged by UCIL or their families are suffering from any radiation hazards due to the mining operations of the Company. Since the inception of this Company, the radiation exposure to the miners and the radiation level in and around the plants have been constantly monitored by the Health Physics Unit of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, a constituent unit of this Department. The radiation exposure to miners are well below the prescribed permissible limit and the background radiation level at Jaduguda is also similar to that in the surrounding areas.

Long-term effects of Nuclear Explosions

2485. SHRIMATI URMILABEN
CHIMANBHAI PATEL:
SHRI JANESHWAR
MISRA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the immediate and long-term effects of nuclear explosions on human beings;

(b) whether Government have studied the dangers of nuclear weapons, particularly the effects of bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; and

(c) if so, what are the findings thereof and what steps have been taken to counter the ill-effects of nuclear explosions on human health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Nuclear explosions carried out in atmosphere can affect the human beings due to the generation of blast, heat and radiation. Underground nuclear explosions carefully done (fully contained) have no effect on human beings.

(b) and (c) The Department of Atomic Energy has studied the dangers of nuclear weapons. The studies corresponding to Hiroshima and Nagasaki have been done by various international organisations and teams. Their findings are well documented and Govt. is aware of these findings.

Demand of compensation by Residents of Pokharan Tehsil

2486. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the villagers of Khetolai, Dholia and Bhadaria of Pokharan Tehsil have demanded compensation for the damages to their homes;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to meet the demand; and

(c) whether any medical examination was carried out on those villagers and any medical aid arranged to save them from radioactivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The villagers of Khetolai and Dholia have demanded compensation for the damages to their homes.