

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) the oldest power station in India, commenced commercial operation in October, 1969 and has completed over 26 years of successful operation. Of the two units of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS) the first one commenced commercial operation in December 1973 and the second one in April 1981. The two units of the Madras Atomic Power Station commenced commercial operation in January 1984 and March 1986 respectively.

Upgradation of the safety systems of nuclear installations due to ageing of the plants and version of standards of safety is a continuous process being undertaken by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCL) and the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). A number of steps for upgrading safety systems have been taken up. TAPS-II Core shroud inspection has been carried out and found to be in accordance with safety requirements. Feed water spray nozzle in the Reactors at TAPS I & II have been inspected and found to be in good conditions. Aged pipes in the Primary Heat Transport System of the Tarapur Plant have been replaced. Enmasse Coolant Channel replacement and upgradation of Emergency Core Cooling System in RAPS-II have been taken up and are in progress. Other areas of safety upgradation have been identified and NPCIL and AERB are jointly preparing and implementing appropriate corrective action within a committee time-frame.

Visit of Foreign Ambassadors to J & K

524. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR
SAMBHAJI RAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of European and other ambassadors visited Doda and other militancy affected areas of J & K, to study the situation following mass killings in the post Lok Sabha elections period;

(b) if so, what is Government's assessment of the post-election scenario in J & K and how it compares with the assessment of those foreign dignitaries; and

(c) whether there was a mass exodus from the militancy affected areas; if so, to what extent and whether the displaced persons have since returned to their houses, indicating the steps taken to restore normalcy there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SR. BALASUBRAMANIAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A team of Ambassadors of the European Union visited Jammu & Kashmir between 12 to 15 June, 1996. During the visit they had discussions with State Government officials and representatives of various parties and groups in the state. The ambassadors did not visit Doda nor was the visit related to any specific incidents of mass killings, etc.

(b) As no reports are given to the Government by such dignitaries on visits of this nature, the question of any comparative assessment does not arise. However, in the opinion of the Government, although the level of violence still remains high, there is a distinct and perceptible improvement in the overall security environment in the State.

fc) No, Sir. Does not arise.