

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (d) A telephonic call was received on 26.6.1996, at about 1640 hours, at the Kanpur Station Central Enquiry that a bomb had been placed in the Shatabdi Express coming from Lucknow. The Station Superintendent, Kanpur passed on the information to the Government Railway Police authorities. On arrival of the train at the Railway Station, Kanpur at 1708 hours, the passengers were detained. The Government Railway Police personnel and the Bomb Disposal Squad of Kanpur police checked the train in the presence of the City Magistrate. No bomb was found. After getting clearance from the State/Civil authorities, the train started from Kanpur at 1925 hours.

Such bomb hoax calls do create panic amongst the passengers and cause them inconvenience, besides delaying the running of trains.- However, in the interest of passenger safety, such hoax calls cannot be ignored without proper verification.

State Government are alerted from time to time to identify rumour-mongers and take appropriate action against them; State Governments also take steps to create awareness in public against spreading rumours.

#### **Celebration of Birth Centenary of Shri V. K. Krishna Menon**

\*216. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to celebrate the birth centenary of late Shri V. K. Krishan Menon, one of the principal architects of the doctrine of non-alignment; and

(b) whether the establishment of an International Centre of Research and Documentation on Problems and Issues concerning aspects on non-alignment in the name of Shri Krishna Menon would be considered as part of such centenary celebrations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such proposal has either been received or is under consideration of the National Committee set up for celebration on birth centenary of late Shri V. K. Krishna Menon.

#### **Formation of Regulatory Body for Road Building System**

\*217. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the automobile industry for the formation of an effective and independent regulatory agency to help promote a safer, cleaner and efficient road-building system;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government on such proposal; and -

(c) whether Government have received certain number of bids for building six-lane fenced Super National Highways, if so, the details including the amount of investment involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The National Highways Authority of India invited global proposals for feasibility studies for the identified sections of the Super National Highways. Twenty-two parties including 11 number of foreign firms applied for it. It is too early to indicate the amount of investment involved.

#### **Plan for Improvement in Droughts in Hooghly**

\*218. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state: (a) the present plan for improvement in draughts in Hooghly Estuary;

(b) the present status of the recession dredging project over Jiggarkhali Flat; and

(c) the action taken so far against the Dutch contractor, engaged for the above job?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) The plan for the improvement in draughts in

Hooghly Estuary involves capital dredging, measures to improve flood flow conditions, construction of shore disposal terminal and trimming of Nayachara Island.

(b) and (c) Calcutta Port Trust has terminated the contract of the Dutch contractor and has initiated legal action in the Calcutta High Court to encash the Bank Guarantees furnished by the Contractor.

#### महिला कैदियों का शोषण

\*219. श्रीमती मालती शर्मा : क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस समय देश में कुल कितनी महिलाएं जेलों में बन्द हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार को पुलिस और जेल के अधिकारियों द्वारा इन महिला कैदियों का शारीरिक शोषण किए जाने के बारे में कोई शिकायत प्राप्त हुई है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार इस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है?

गृह मंत्री ( श्री इन्द्रजीत गुप्त ) : (क) देश में महिला कैदियों की कुल संख्या 31.12.1995 की स्थिति के अनुसार 6285 है।

(ख) और (ग) चूंकि "जेल" राज्य का विषय है, इसलिए यह राज्य सरकारों का काम है कि वे जेल प्रशासन से संबंधित किसी भी मामले को सुसंगत नियमों, विनियमों तथा जेल मैनुअल के उपबंधों के अनुसार निपटाएं। भारत सरकार द्वारा प्राप्त कोई भी शिकायत उचित कार्रवाई हेतु राज्य सरकारों को भेज दी जाती है। इस मंत्रालय में उल्लिखित प्रकार की कोई भी विशिष्ट शिकायत प्राप्त नहीं हुई है।

#### Discussion on Uttarakhand Issue

\*220. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH:

SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government recently have held discussions with the leaders of parties and protagonists of Uttarakhand on the issue of creation of a separate State of Uttarakhand ;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (c) Discussions have been held with political leaders and protagonists of Uttarakhand on various demands made by them which include, *inter alia*, creation of a separate State of Uttarakhand. Based on these discussions, the Government is examining various alternatives for arriving at an acceptable solution.

#### Reviewing India's Nuclear Policy

1034. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the National Herald dated the 2nd April, 1996, exposing the secret history of extensive Chinese-Pakistani nuclear collaboration and revealing that Pakistan was in a position to make plutonium to manufacture nuclear bomb within a short time; and

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

(c) whether Government propose to review the nuclear policy to match with Pak-nuclear advancement towards nuclear weapons; in the context of security perceptions in the region?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The security situation of India is constantly under review, particularly in the light of developments in the neighbourhood and Government will take all necessary measures designed to cope with and threat that may be posed to the security of the nation.

#### Development of Agni and Prithvi Missiles

1035. SHRIMATI ANANDBEN JETHABHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether reported deployment of nuclear Chinese M-II missiles by Pakistan on the border, has increased the threat to security of the country;

(b) if so, whether keeping in view of this, Government have decided to speed up the development of Agni and Prithvi missiles;