

as 40 Agricultural Technology Information Centres have been initiated at SAUs and ICAR Institutes to provide a single window delivery system for technology products, services and information to the farmers and other end users. Besides existing 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), the ICAR has sanctioned strengthening 53 Zonal Agricultural Research stations to take up additional functions of KVKs.

Specialists view on Nuclear Tests

1283. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the - PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Nuclear Weapon specialists are of the view that more nuclear tests would be necessary to develop the credibility of our nuclear deterrent; and

(b) if so, what is the reason for Government's over enthusiasm to sign the CTBT when the main Nuclear Power themselves are not ready for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a). Government have declared a voluntary moratorium on further nuclear explosive tests. The five tests conducted in May 1998 have provided an adequate scientific data base for designing the types of weapons needed for a credible minimum nuclear deterrent.

(b) Government's position on the CTBT was laid down by the Prime Minister in Parliament in December 1998. While Government closely monitors all international developments on the CTBT, Government's position on the treaty continues to be based on considerations of national security and national interests and its desire to develop a national consensus on this issue.

Work on Kaiga Atomic Power Plant

1284. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has sought permission to begin work on the third and fourth units of the Kaiga Atomic Power Plant;

- (b) if so, whether permission has been given; and
- (c) if not, when it will be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The agency for setting up of Atomic Power Plants in India (including at Kaiga, in Karnataka) is Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL), under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India. Proposals for Nuclear Power development in the Ninth Five Year Plan *inter-alia* include commencement of work on two units of Kaiga i.e. Units-3 & 4 (2 x 220 MWe).

Storage and handling cost of Foodgrains by FCI

1285. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the cost of storage and handling grains by the Food Corporation of India;
- (b) how does this cost compare with costs in the private sector;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the price of foodgrains from public distribution system to non-BPL consumers is more than the price in the open market; and
- (d) whether Government have any intention to privatise storage and handling of grains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The Storage and handling charges incurred by the FCI are allocated between the distribution cost which is a part of the Economic Cost and Buffer Carrying Cost as per the formula of distribution as approved by the Government. The details of the Storage and handling charges for the current year are as follows:

(Rs./qtl)

	Distribution Cost which is part of Economic Cost		Buffer
	Wheat	Rice	
Handling	22.35	22.26	16.71
Storage	12.04	12.05	36.17

(b) Since no data of the cost in the private sector is available, it is not possible to compare the FCI's cost with that of the private sector.