

(d) what are the names of villages in Rajasthan affected due to radiation by the said Project;

(e) the number of times when the Rawatbhata plant has been closed since its setting up of with the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether it is a fact that developed countries have decided not to put up any more atomic power plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) and (b) A Press Report relating to the demand for enquiry into the effects of radiation from Atomic Power Plant at Rawatbhata in Rajasthan purported to have been made by Dr., Sanghamitra Desai Agadekar, Director of Sampoorna Kranti Vidyalaya, Suvat (Gujarat) has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) The operational releases from Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS) over the past several years have been well within the permissible limits so as not to cause any perceptible health effects to population in the area around the plant. The radiation dose at the exclusion zone boundary (i. 6 kms) from Rajasthan Atomic Power Station due to release of radioactive materials is negligible.

(d) No villages in Rajasthan are affected due to radiation by the said project in view of (c) above.

(e) RAPS-1 had 215 unplanned and 24 planned outages. RAPS-2 had 106 unplanned and 25 planned outages. These relate to the period from the beginning of commercial operation i. e. 16-12-1973 for RAPS-1 and 01. 04. 1981 for RAPS-2 to end of July, 1990. The planned outages were for preventive and predictive maintenance of the various systems of the plant. The unplanned outages were due to problems relating to equipment and components including instability of the grid to which these two units are connected. The units were brought back on line as soon as the cause of such outages were removed.

(f) In some countries there has been slowing down of nuclear power programme for various reasons including that of low demand for additional power and pressures relating to environmental and safety considerations. In certain countries like France, nuclear power contributes almost 80 per cent of the electricity generation. More stations are being added there in order to export electricity. Government has a responsibility to meet energy needs of the country of various categories of the population and for different sector-of economic development. Government is of the view that nuclear energy can play an important role in this regard. While pursuing this objective Government will also see to it that all that is necessary is done to ensure safety and avoidance of hazards that have been of public concern.

Complaints against an officer posted in Education and Culture Wing of the Indian Embassy, Washington

3040. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have some complaints from doctors and scientists about the behaviour of Dr. Sar-taj S. Methur who is posted in the Education and Cultural wing of the Indian Embassy in Washington;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) No No such complaint against the officer has been received in the Ministry.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Parties/Receptions held in National Museum

3041. SHRI BAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be