

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM CYPRUS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, I have an announcement to make.

We have with us this morning, seated in the Special Box, Members of a Parliamentary Delegation from Cyprus which is currently on a visit to our country under the distinguished leadership of His Excellency Dr. Vassos Lyssarides, President of the House of Representatives.

On behalf of the Members of the House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a very hearty welcome to the Leader and other Members of the Delegation and wish our distinguished guests a very enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during their stay here they would be able to see and learn more about our parliamentary system, our country and our people and their visit to this country will further strengthen the friendly bonds that exist between us. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Members of the House of Representatives and the friendly people of Cyprus.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS— Contd.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, an international conference on Nuclear free Asia-Pacific held at Hong Kong in June last expressed the apprehension that the Kaiga project will create massive problems for the stability of the region and safety of the future generations in view of the hazards involved in transport of nuclear materials, disposal of wastes and dismantling of the reactors. The local protestors have also voiced similar feelings. I want to know from the Government what steps are being taken to take care of nuclear accidents. Specifically I want to know, since this project is located in the catchment area, whether the Government is taking any steps to ensure that water is not pol-

luted by radioactive wastes from the plant and whether the Nuclear Safety Board has okayed the project and what safety measures are being taken to take care of nuclear accidents.

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: Sir, we have read about the conference in Hong Kong. They have, *inter alia*, during the discussions, expressed some doubts about the Kaiga Project also. I think, the conference was generally opposed to nuclear energy as such. It is a view expressed by quite a number of people. But there are contrary views expressed by the majority of scientists in the world.

With regard to the stability of the foundations of the Kaiga Project, this has been gone into thoroughly by the Corporation and also by other institutions like the Earthquake Engineering Institute in Roorkee. As regards seismic threat the area is not a major seismic area. It is included in what you call, Zone III of the earthquake prone areas in India. In any case anti-earthquake devices and technology has been incorporated into the engineering work that is being done here. We believe that, according to all the evidence and studies conducted, the foundations are stable, and the plant will be able to withstand any sort of earthquake.

A question has been asked about disposal of waste and about other safety provisions. We have full knowledge of the technology for disposing of waste. There is always a waste disposal plant, treatment plant at reactor sites a plant come up in Kaiga.

With regard to water pollution, this is a fear which has been expressed by many people. Water is taken from the river Kalinadi and discharged back into it. But it is treated and purified and the water which is sent back to the Kalinadi, would not have any trace of radiation at all. It is completely protected water which will go into that river.