

Meeting of the Indo-us Sub-Com-mision
On Science and Technology

992. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN
REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be
pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of new areas of
Joint Indo-US research identified at the 8th
meeting of the Indo-US Sub-Commission on
Science and Technology held in the last week
of September, 1986;

(b) whether any scheme to transform
research findings into improved technologies
and to transfer these into productive uses in
the economy have been initiated; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC
ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE
(SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The Indo-
US scientific collaboration is an on-going
inter active process between the scientists of
the two countries. In this, the emphasis in a
wide spectrum of disciplines conies in for a
periodic review. Accordingly, the eighth
meeting of the Indo-US Sub-commission on
Science and Technology was held at
Washington, D.C. on September 22—24,
1986, to further the collaboration in the
following S&T fields:

- (i) Physical and Material Sciences;
- (ii) Earth, Atmospheric and Marine
Sciences;
- (iii) Energy;
- (iv) Environment and Ecology;
- (v) Information Science & Technology;
- (vi) Health, Medical and Life
Sciences.

It was also agreed that the popularization of
science was an important area which should
be given increased support and emphasis in
cooperative

activities under the Sub-commission. At the
end of the two days meeting there was a total
endorsement of the approach followed so far
and to be followed in future.

(b) and (c) The bilateral cooperation under
the auspices of Indo-US S&T Sub-
Commission is primarily for basic and
fundamental research in the above fields.
However, it has been agreed to explore
possibilities for cooperation leading to
translation of research results into improved
technologies and their productive uses in the
economy.

Liberalisation of norms for opening post offices

993. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will
the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to
liberalise the norms and procedure for opening
of post offices in the far flung backward areas
of the country; and

Ob' if so, what are the details in this
regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI
SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The
norms adopt, ed by the Department since 1978
for opening of post offices in backward and
tribal areas in fact contain substantial
relaxation in respect of requirements of
minimum population and minimum revenue.
The Department is at present taking a fresh
look at the norms for opening of post offices
taking into account the recommendations of
the Committee of Enquiry into the Extra
Departmental System, the extent of postal
development that has taken place in different
areas and other relevant factors. However, in
so far as tribal and backward areas are
concerned they will continue to be entitled to
special consideration. It is however possible
that even the related norms may be found to be
inadequate in some areas which are
characterised by extreme sparse-ness of
population or remoteness. In

such cases the concerned State governments are expected to come up with proposals for opening of post offices in relaxation of norms under the scheme of Non-Returnable contributions (NPC).

Setting up of electro-optical system in the country

994. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Rupees 40 crore electro-optical system in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Certain types of electro-optical devices, such as, Laser Range Finder, Night Vision Binoculars, Night Vision Goggles etc. have been developed by DRDO at Dehradun, and are currently under production in the country.

Additional production facilities will be established as required.

Review of safety measures in Nuclear Power Plants

995. SHRI B. SATYANARYAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 20 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th July, 1986 and state:

(a) whether the task force set up by Government to review the safety measures and performance at the Nuclear Power has accomplished its task;

(b) if so, whether there are any proposals under Government's consideration to strengthen safety measures in various nuclear power plants; and

(c) if so, what are the details regarding additional guard to hold back the pressure of fission in the Nuclear Power Plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Task Force is expected to submit its report by December 1986 and improvements as necessary, will be carried out in all the nuclear power stations.

Government views before Press Council of India

996 SHRI BAPU KALDATE- Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that during the course of past two years, the Press council of India had summoned the Government to appear before it and state its views;

(b) if so, the details thereto; and

(c) whether Government responded to the summons issued by the Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Accidents of Defence Aircraft

997. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE;
SHRI KAILASH PATI
MISHRA:
SHRI SHANKER SINH
VAGHELA:
SHRI K. VASUDEV
PANICKER:
SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) what is the number of defence aeroplanes, category-wise which crashed/met with accidents during the Sixth Five Year Plan period and thereafter;