

US Supply of Weapons to Pakistan

496. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have lately taken up the issue of supply of sophisticated weapons and aircraft by USA to Pakistan;

(b) if so, at what level; and

(c) whether the Prime Minister proposes to visit the USA to discuss with that Government the dangers to peace in this sub-continent arising from large scale concentration of sophisticated arms in Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) India's views on the subject have been conveyed to the US Government in unmistakable terms and on several occasions including during the recent visits to India of the US Vice President, Secretary of State, Assistant Secretary of State and various Senators and Congressmen. The matter would also be taken up on future occasions whenever they arise.

Import of Silicon Plant and Technology

497. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently ordered a review of the proposal to import a silicon plant and technology worth rupees 95 crores from USA;

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

(c) whether Indian scientists and technocrats have protested against the deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT; ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The Department of Electronics had finalised its technical collaboration agreement with M/s Hemlock Semiconductor Corporation, Michigan, USA for 200 tonne/annum capacity in early 1984. Since the required import clearance from US Government had not been received and some information was brought to the notice of the Department of Electronics in November 1984 these inputs are being studied in depth and its results are likely to be available soon.

(b) The collaboration agreement is to run for a period of 8 years. It involves, *inter-alia*, supply by Hemlock of process know-how and basic engineering. All detailed engineering of the plant, procurement and installation of equipment, and all activities relating to construction of the technical buildings, the setting up of the specialised utilities, etc. would be undertaken by the central public sector company, Engineers India Ltd. approximately 70 per cent of the equipments for the plant is to be produced indigenously. The plant and the Silicon Characterisation Centre would involve an investment of around Rs. 90 crores. Production is expected to start by early 1988.

(c) Some Indian Scientists and technocrats have stated that a somewhat different process has been perfected only recently in a pilot plant of about 2 tonne/annum capacity. In their opinion, up-scaling this pilot plant to a production plant of 22.5 tonne/annum would be cost effective. This claim is being looked into.