

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The Tarapur Atomic Power Station is being presently operated at lower power levels to stretch the available fuel. The existing stock of fuel is likely to last till 1984.

Nuclear Fuel for Atomic Power Stations

653. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:

SHRI SATCHIDANANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any alternative arrangements for supply of nuclear fuel have been made for running atomic power stations;

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

(c) what steps have been taken to cancel the agreement with the U.S. Govt. for latter's refusing to supply atomic fuel;

(d) whether our atomic reactors are working to their full capacity; and

(e) whether the spent fuel is being reprocessed?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) to (c) All nuclear power stations in the country except the Tarapur one use natural uranium as fuel, for which sufficient indigenous capacity is available. The Tarapur station uses slightly enriched uranium, which has so far been supplied by the United States in terms of the 1963 Co-operation Agreement between the two countries. There have been inordinate delays in the supply of enriched uranium from the U.S. since 1975. The U.S. Govt. has indicated their inability to supply any further fuel. The future of the agreement has been under discussion between the two governments. Irrespective of further fuel supplies from the U.S., Govt. of India will ensure the continued

operation of the Tarapur Atomic Power Station.

(d) Due to non-receipt of fuel for the Tarapur Atomic Power Station from the U.S., the station is being operated at reduced power level to stretch the fuel cycle.

(e) A decision to reprocess the spent fuel will be taken at the appropriate time.

Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad

654. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad has been damaged by fire, explosion and flood waters;

(b) whether it is also a fact that after the heavy rains on June 15, 1982 several important installations of NFC have become inoperative;

(c) if so, the total loss suffered by NFC as a result of fire, explosion and flood waters;

(d) what were the causes thereof; and

(e) whether the seeping of rain water into the machinery occurred due to its faulty installation, if so, what action has been taken against the erring persons and what steps have been taken to see that such damage is not caused again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH): (a) No serious damage has been caused.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.