

SHRI SACHIN PILOT: Sir, part of the template has a third-party audit to be required to be done. There are about eighteen companies which have been identified as third-party auditing companies and every vendor has to go through this process including companies which they are ordering from China. The process has just started; the notification is issued last month. Earlier, in December, 2009, there was a proforma prepared for clearance on a case-by-case basis; on a case-to-case basis, we were approving the import of telecom equipment. Last month, we have issued the template in which the third-party audit is required for all companies which are importing from all countries. It applies also to China and the Chinese companies and the process is ongoing.

SHRI P. RAJEEV: Sir, the Government is not ready to utilise the Chinese equipments by BSNL which have been utilised by the private operators. I would like to know whether the Government has any plan to give sanction to BSNL to utilise the Chinese equipments which have been already utilised by the private operators.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Why is the Member so fond of China?

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Why are you so fond of private companies? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow the questions. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let the question be answered.

SHRI SACHIN PILOT: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that BSNL has not been barred to import equipment from any country including companies that are from China as long as they go through the audit process and the template which is designed. I would like to reiterate, Sir, on the floor of the House that the Department of Telecommunications is not prejudiced or is in favour of any company or country. We want the best equipment, secure equipment for our country and we will leave no stone unturned to make sure that our concerns are addressed... ..and there is equitable level playing ground for all companies, including from China.

श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी: सर, मैंने जो सवाल पूछना था, वह एम. वेंकैया नायडु जी और पी. राजीव जी ने पूछ लिया है, इसलिए मैं अब सवाल नहीं पूछना चाहता हूँ। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को बधाई दूंगा कि उन्होंने बहुत अच्छी तरह से जवाब दिया है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

पड़ोसी देशों के पास परमाणु हथियार होना

***424. श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर कोरिया, ईरान, सीरिया, पाकिस्तान आदि के साथ-साथ अब म्यांमार भी परमाणु हथियार निर्माण में लग गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में तथ्य क्या है; और

(ग) भारत के उन पड़ोसी देशों के नाम क्या हैं जहां कानूनी या गैर-कानूनी तरीके से परमाणु हथियार बनाए जा रहे हैं?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री एस.एम. कृष्णा): (क) और (ख) सरकार ने म्यामांर के परमाणु कार्यक्रम से संबंधित मीडिया रिपोर्टों को देखा है। म्यामांर सरकार ने परमाणु हथियारों के निर्माण में शामिल होने संबंधी मीडिया रिपोर्टों को अस्वीकार करते हुए इन्हें बेबुनियाद और मनगढ़ंत बताया है।

(ग) माना जाता है कि भारत के पड़ोस में चीन और पाकिस्तान के पास परमाणु हथियार हैं।

Atomic weapons with neighbouring countries

† *424. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Myanmar is also now engaged in making atomic weapons along with North Korea, Iran, Syria, Pakistan, etc.;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the names of those neighbouring countries of India wherein atomic weapons are being manufactured legally or illegally?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Government has seen media reports indicating that Myanmar has a nuclear programme. Government of Myanmar has rejected media reports that it was engaged in making nuclear weapons as unfounded and fallacious.

(c) In India's neighbourhood, China and Pakistan are known to possess nuclear weapons.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, as far Myanmar is concerned, it is our neighbour. But there are reports that it is engaging itself in a nuclear programme. Now, your reply says that they have rejected it. Mr. Minister, through the hon. Chairman, I would like to know from you that in the context of some of the activities going on in the neighbourhood of North Korea, the aggressive designs of China, Myanmar also close to be, do you take the rejection by Myanmar completely on face or there is a cause of concern?

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Sir, as far as bilateral relationships are concerned, when a country like Myanmar asserts that it has no nuclear programme on the anvil, then, the Government of India will have to believe the legitimate Government's assertion from the Myanmar side. But, at the same time, we also try to gather through our own intelligence network whatever is happening in the periphery or within and the Government always monitors these developments very closely because we are concerned about our own security.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, my second supplementary pertains to part 'c' of my question where you have conceded that China and Pakistan are having nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons programme. Of late, we are repeatedly hearing information that the nuclear security capability of Pakistan is seriously suspect. We repeatedly hear of nuclear arsenal passing on into the hands of Taliban and others. Is India aware of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

those dangers? If the answer is in the affirmative, what precautionary measures are being taken?

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Sir, this is something which even we periodically make an assessment of. We know that Pakistan has nuclear bombs. We also know that China has also nuclear weapons. We also know that there have been clandestine proliferation efforts and the North Korea, Iran, Libya and others are also involved in this. We also know that there is A.Q. Khan Network which is very active. So, the Government of India continuously monitors these developments and then takes appropriate steps to see that India's security interests are not jeopardised.

SHRI Y.P. TREVEDI: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that Myanmar is declining that they are in the process of manufacturing atomic bomb. No country admits till the bomb making apparatus is completely perfected. My point is that since neither Myanmar nor other neighbouring countries have the necessary scientific pool to make an indigenous bomb, they would be definitely pirating the information, pirating the arsenal, pirating the fissionable material from other places like what North Korea did, like what Iran did. So, my question is what type of surveillance you are having. We have satellite which is monitoring that part of the area. Are we aware of anything happening there which will indicate that they are in the process of trying to use all this material, fissionable material, for manufacturing an atomic bomb?

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Sir, if I can quote Myanmar communique when it was brought to their notice, "Those reports are merely groundless allegations with political motives to exert pressure on Myanmar." So, in the light of that we will have to take what Myanmar conveys to the world and to us in particular that they are not into it but we still keep monitoring whatever is happening.

SHRI H.K. DUA: Sir, Chinese cooperation with Pakistan in nuclear field has been there for some years but lately there are reports that China has decided to give two nuclear reactors to Pakistan. Are you sure that these two reactors will be under international safeguards?

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Sir, Government has raised this matter at the official level with China. It has responded that its nuclear cooperation with Pakistan is for peaceful purposes, consistent with China's international obligations and subject to International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards and Supervision.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir I must say that I am a little distressed about the cavalier fashion in which this serious question has been answered. The news reports raise a very serious apprehension. If the news reports are true, then, it is obvious that the construction and the building up of these bombs is a part of a conspiracy directed against India and to which conspiracy our two neighbours, China and Pakistan, are parties. It must immediately put you on a very serious search for finding out the real answers to this query. If the denials are today even suspicious denials, then you must have your foreign policy intact. How do you deal with this situation if there is some truth in these news reports? It is a grave matter for

us and please assure us that you are taking full care of the possibilities which are implicit in this news.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Sir, I do realize the seriousness of the situation. When a neighbouring country acquires nuclear weapons or is on the road to acquire nuclear weapons it is a cause of serious concern to India and that is the reason why I said that Government constantly monitors whatever is happening in and around us. As far as Myanmar is concerned, very recently the Head of the State was here in India. We have very friendly relations with Myanmar and it is Government of India's desire to continue those friendly, bilateral relationships with Myanmar and, at the same time, we will certainly keep a close watch on whatever is happening on the nuclear side.

Irrigation potential and its utilization

*425. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the current irrigation potential created and utilized for the country and Andhra Pradesh in particular, where total irrigation potential created was 63,22,680 hectares and out of that 58,32,810 hectares was utilized;

(b) the cost incurred for creation of such irrigation potential;

(c) the reasons for under-utilization of irrigation potential created; and

(d) the scope for further creation of irrigation potential in the next five years and the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per the information provided by the State Governments, total irrigation potential created in the country upto March, 2010 is 108.21 million hectares (Mha) which includes 7.45 Mha of irrigation potential created in Andhra Pradesh. Detailed information about utilization of irrigation potential is available upto the end of Tenth Plan *i.e.* March, 2007. Against the created irrigation potential of 102.7 Mha at the end of Tenth Plan, the irrigation potential utilization of 87.2 Mha was reported by the State Governments. The irrigation potential created and the irrigation potential utilized for Andhra Pradesh at the end of Tenth Plan have been reported to be 6.86 Mha and 6.20 Mha respectively.

(b) Total expenditure under Major and Medium Irrigation sector, Minor Irrigation sector and Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM) sector from First Plan to Tenth Plan is about Rs. 2,50,287 crores. Further, the outlay for these sectors during the first three years of the Eleventh Plan *i.e.* during 2007-08 to 2009-10 is Rs. 1,25,355 crores.