

of unclassified data and publications. Government is of the view that it would not be appropriate to make public the details with regard to individual work programmes under these agreements.

(e) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

Major projects under execution

891. SHRI SADASHIV BAGAITKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the major projects of the Atomic Energy Department presently under execution;

(b) which of these projects have been delayed for three years and more giving the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the estimated cost likely to be escalated due to delay in their execution; and

(d) by when these projects are likely to be completed indicating the steps taken to ensure their completion according to the revised schedule?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The major projects of the Department which are presently under execution, the reasons for the delay in completion the revised cost of these projects, the reasons for increase in cost and the expected date of completion are indicated in the enclosed statement. See Appendix CXV, Annexure No. 95]. The physical financial progress, of major projects are being monitored by the Department regularly, with a view to locating factors affecting the project schedule and taking prompt steps to avoid delay.

Indigenous processes for producing heavy water

892. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA:

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the schemes for developing indigenous processes for producing heavy water for harnessing atomic energy;

(b) what measures Government are taking to reduce our reliance on external supplies of fuel and sophisticated equipments; and

(c) what are the details in this regard?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) The Heavy Water Plant being set up in Kota uses the H^2S-H^3O exchange process. This is based on indigenous technical knowhow and engineering developed at BARC. The expertise developed in the execution of this plant will be utilized to set up some future heavy water plants based on this process. The Heavy Water Plants in Baroda, Tuticorin and Talcher are based on the ammonia-hydrogen exchange process and are linked to fertilizer plants. The Department has developed capability to construct and operate such plants. Because of difficulties caused due to the linkage with fertilizer plants, attempts are being made to make future plants independent of fertilizer plants. Technology for this is being developed.

(b) and (c) Presently most nuclear and conventional equipment needed for atomic power projects are manufactured in India. Natural uranium required as fuel for pressurised heavy water reactor and facilities for the fabrication of the finished fuel are also available here. The Tarapur Atomic Power Station alone uses imported enriched uranium. However steps are being taken to ensure continued operation of TAPS in the event of cut off of enriched uranium supplies from abroad.