

products. It relates to various inventories, semi-finished raw materials, and so on, and the question was why do you have so much of raw materials, semi-finished items and all those inventories if it is adding to your interest costs? Therefore, there is no attempt or no proposal before the Government to import anything which we have here.

SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Sir, I would like to ask one question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already asked two.

SHRI R. R. MORARKA: I can ask again. If there are more people to ask questions, I would not ask but since there is no other hon. Member to ask a question, let me ask one question. Sir, the hon. Minister said that they are negotiating with foreign firms of Germany and Russia for putting up a steel plant here because of financial reasons. May I know whether in these negotiations the hon. Minister has suggested or is going to suggest for the utilisation of our installed capacity here in India?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I shall repeat what I said earlier that we will endeavour to utilise our capacity in our country and we will also examine the proposals for a turn-key project if that can give us additional quantity of steel immediately or within a very short period.

Production of weapons grade uranium by Pakistan

*222. SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY:

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV:†
SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan has reached the stage to produce weapons grade uranium;

(b) whether Government consider it of serious concern to India's security; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ramanand Yadav.

(c) if so, whether Government propose to produce weapons grade uranium for the defence of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE CHARGE OF PRIME MINISTER (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) and (b). Available information indicates that Pakistan is continuing its efforts to produce weapons grade uranium. Government are conscious of the implication of Pakistan acquiring nuclear weapons capability.

(c) Government's stand on this question is wellknown and has been recently reiterated on the floor of this House. Government remain committed to the policy of utilising atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

श्री रामानन्द यादव : सभापति महोदय, आज भारतवर्ष चारों तरफ से आणविक शस्त्रों से लैस देशों से घिर गया है। चीन न्यूक्लियर वेपंस से अपने को लैस कर चुका है। पाकिस्तान को यह सहायता कर रहा है। यूरोपीयन देश भी न्यूक्लियर वेपंस बनाने में पाकिस्तान को सहायता कर रहे हैं। न्यूक्लियर एनर्जी को डबलप करने के लिये नैयरिण्क्टर अमरीका फ्रांस के माध्यम से पाकिस्तान को दे रहा है। अरब देश पाकिस्तान को पैसे के माध्यम से मदद कर रहे हैं। अमरीका का हवाई बेडा जो न्यूक्लियर हेड से लैस है डियागो गार्शिया में पड़ा हुआ है। उसके आणविक सब मरीन हिन्द महासागर में गश्त लगा रहे हैं और लेसर किरणों से लैस अमरीका ने पाकिस्तान में अफगानिस्तान के विद्रोहियों को रूस के खिलाफ ट्रैनिंग देने के लिये अड़्डा जम लिया है। ऐसी हालत में जब भारतवर्ष की सुरक्षा खतरे में है तो क्या सरकार यह नहीं सोचती है कि वेपन ग्रेड यूरेनियम का निर्माण भारतवर्ष में जल्दी से जल्दी शुरू

फिया जाये ताकि आगे चल के हम पाकिस्तान से पीछे न रह जाये ?

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: Sir, the concern of the hon. Member is naturally the concern of our country. But I would like to inform him that as part of our technological advancement in the nuclear field, various processes are being developed in the country so that we become self-reliant, and enrichment is one process that is under study.

श्री रामानन्द यादव : मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि क्या भारत की रक्षा के लिए भारत सरकार लेसर किरणों के विकास पर अधिक से अधिक मूस्तीदी से ध्यान देगी और उस पर पैसे खर्च करेगी ? क्या सरकार इस से न्यूक्लियर ड्राइवन सबमेरीन खरीदने या और देशों से भारतवर्ष की सेना के लिए आणविक शस्त्रों के बने हुए युद्ध के अस्त्र-शस्त्र खरीदने के लिए सोचती है ?

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: Not at present and the answer to part one of the hon. Members question is that the laser technology is being looked into and the suggestions of the hon. Member will certainly be taken into consideration.

SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR: Sir, the nuclear development programme by China on one side, and by Pakistan on the other side, leads to instability in the region and a sense of insecurity in the minds of the people and the nation. How does the Government propose to meet this situation?

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: The hon. Member has pointed out the developments in the countries surrounding us and I would like to assure the hon. Member that India is also fully aware and we are taking the necessary steps.

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY: Sir, whatever may be our anxiety for the security of this country and for the defence of this country, in regard to the third part of the

question in the original form about the nuclear weapons, I think, the Government of India has made it amply clear that India will never produce atomic weapons and I do not think this forum, both the Houses of Parliament, is the one where these very subtle and susceptible questions should be discussed and whatever may be the threat, I feel, India is capable enough of facing it in any form instead of going in for nuclear weapons.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Her point is well taken.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Sir, there is a wealth of information by now to substantiate the allegation or the suspicion that Pakistan is going in for a nuclear bomb, or more than one bomb. They are constructing a gas centrifuge plant and this is going to manufacture weapons grade uranium. This has been confirmed and the purpose is only military. This has no civilian purpose. The scientist who is helping to build this plant has worked in such a plant in Europe and, he has brought away, without authorisation, information concerning this highly secret process from Europe. This has also become very well known by now. Sir, foreign newspapers have been in close touch with this development. The German T.V., the English newspapers, the Russian newspapers, have all given information on this aspect and all of them have predicted that the first explosion is to come pretty soon. Now, the latest information to come is that whereas earlier, France had refused to supply equipment of a sensitive nature to Pakistan, it has come out that Niger has been supplying uranium both to Libya and Pakistan and in quantities for which Libya has no use. It has a very small nuclear energy programme. Has the Government protested to France? Has the Government taken up this matter with France because the majority shareholding of this company in Niger belongs to the French Atomic Energy Commission, the counterpart of our Atomic Energy Com-

mission, and the cousin of the French President is directly involved in this because he is the Financial Director of the French Atomic Energy Commission. Hence, I would like to know: has this matter been taken up with the French Government and have we protested against it? I would also like to know: are we preparing the country adequately for this, because, if an explosion comes, there will be a public reaction? Will the Government take the country a little more into confidence as to what exactly is the state of preparation in Pakistan in regard to the nuclear bomb? Finally, will we announce our decision to go in for enrichment of uranium not only to be prepared for all eventualities from the security angle, but also as a part of our preparations for meeting the energy needs in the next century when Hydrogen, through the fusion process, will provide a good part of our energy?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Sir, I think we should see this problem in proportion. There is no need of creating a scare in the country. There is no need also, as my hon. friend this side has mentioned for the country or any Honourable Member here to feel any sense of insecurity. While we do not have all that we should like to have in the defence sphere, we are trying to strengthen ourselves. The information that the hon. Member has given has appeared in various periodicals, have also read them. But this does not necessarily mean that all of it is true. I do not know if it is. We do not have very definite information. We are told that France has not supplied any equipment and that the uranium from Niger is under international safeguards. The whole question of defence is a much wider one than possessing a couple or more of bombs. It means the general level of the country, its industrial base and capacity and also, of course, its defence preparedness. This is what we have to strengthen. So far as enrichment and the acquiring of knowledge are concerned, the hon. Member knows that various experiments and

works are being undertaken so that we not lag behind. I do not think it would be proper to mention the details of them publicly.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, by and large we support the policy of the Government of India—the present Government I am talking about—on this question. And you know very well, when Mr. Morarji Desai, then Prime Minister of the country, gave that funny assurance to the American Senators and the Congressmen and to the American President, we in this House strongly opposed it because we thought it was derogatory to our national honour and prestige to have gone all the way to the United States of America to give assurances and to give undertaking to the President, the American Congressmen and the Senators. Now, Sir, from what we remember of the past we had always regarded for this country that a nuclear weapon is by no means a defensive weapon. Some people say it is a deterrent. It is not even a deterrent today. Sir, we are part of those who are fighting for nuclear disarmament; rightly so; and we should firmly stand by it. As far as the other things are concerned, well, the United States and others are arming Pakistan. We do not know what kind of weapons they are giving secretly or otherwise. What the American say I do not think she believes it; even though sometimes she may pretend that she believes it. Americans say one thing and do exactly the opposite thing. We know very well that without the American and the western power would not dare to go and help Pakistan to build up nuclear weapon potential. That is absolutely clear but we need not be scared by that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Are you upset (Interruptions). You are not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: If you are upset, I am also upset. So, Sir, I will finish.

Sir, do we expect reiteration of our policy that India would continue to struggle for nuclear disarmament and will join with all forces striving to achieve this end and that under no circumstances India will fall into provocation while retaining her option absolutely free without giving any assurance to western powers, notably the United States of America?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: We do continue to fight for nuclear disarmament as well as general disarmament. That has been our policy from the beginning.

श्री बुद्ध प्रियमौर्य : श्रीमन्, एक प्रधान मंत्री ने न्यूयार्क में बयान दे दिया। दूसरे प्रधान मंत्री ने लाल किले से बयान दे दिया। भारत सरकार की नीति जो न्यूक्लियर डिस्आर्मामेंट को लेकर रही है उस में पिछले तीन वर्षों में लरजिश आयी है। अभी माननीय सदस्य श्री पन्त जी ने प्रश्न किया था उसके उत्तर में माननीय प्रधान मंत्री ने यह जवाब दिया कि पोरियोडिकल्स में जो कुछ छपा है वह जरूरी नहीं है कि सही हो। मैं उनसे यह जानना चाहूंगा—जो कुछ पोरियोडिकल्स में छपा है उसको मैं दोहराना नहीं चाहता, चाहे वह अमेरिका को लेकर हो; चाहे रूस को लेकर हो, चाहे चीन को लेकर हो और बीच में पाकिस्तान तो शामिल है ही—कि सम्बन्धित सरकारों से क्या भारत सरकार ने जानने की कोशिश की? यह जो पोरियोडिकल्स में छपा है यह सही है या नहीं है या माननीय प्रधान मंत्री अपनी ओर से विश्वास करती हैं कि पोरियोडिकल्स में जो छपा है न्यूक्लियर वेपन्स को लेकर वह सत्य है या असत्य है—वे अपने आधार पर ऐसा कहती हैं या भारत सरकार से सम्बन्धित देशों की सरकारों से इसके बारे में जानकारी की है?

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी : सभी सम्बन्धित देशों से तो जानकारी नहीं की है।

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: The acquisition of nuclear arms by Pakistan poses a threat to our country and the hon. Prime Minister has assured us that there is no reason to feel scared about the matter. But the point remains that the acquisition of nuclear arms by Pakistan and China being already a nuclear power change the political situation in the region itself and it will undoubtedly have its effect on the neighbouring countries who are not so much powerful so far as the defence potentialities are concerned. May, I, in that context, know from the Minister as to whether this matter has been taken up with the neighbouring countries? We have seen that already an attack was launched upon us by China in order to bring a certain amount of change in the political situation. In that context, I would like to know whether we have taken up this matter with the neighbouring countries so that not only we are assured but the neighbouring countries are also assured that the acquisition of nuclear arms, if it be so, is not going to structurally change the geo-political situation in this region.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Neighbouring countries are fully aware of our views. I do not know how to put it, but I do not know what weight assurances on this matter can be given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think that is all. Question No. 223.

Proposal to set up heavy industry in M.P.

*223 **SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up any heavy industry in Madhya Pradesh in the near future; and

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