

Pakistan's reported move to manufacture an atom bomb

†*460-A. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware of Pakistan's move to manufacture an atom bomb;

(b) if so, whether the Government of India have taken up the matter with the Pakistan Government; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what is the reaction of the Pakistan Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Government of India have seen reports that Pakistan is making efforts to acquire nuclear explosion capability.

(b) The Prime Minister wrote to General Zia-ul-Haq, President of Pakistan expressing India's concern about these reports.

(c) The President of Pakistan has stated in his reply to the Prime Minister's letter that Pakistan has no intention to acquire or develop nuclear weaponry and that their nuclear programme is geared to peaceful uses.

Criteria for issuing Complimentary Passes

2083. SHRI PRANAB CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of recipients of complimentary passes given by the Railway Board; and

(b) whether any complimentary passes for air-conditioned class were provided to Members of Parliament in 1977-78 and 1978-79?

†Previously Starred Question 423, transferred from the 22nd March, 1979.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) A list is attached. (See Appendix CVIII, Annexure No. 127).

(b) No.

Forged National Permits

2084. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of trucks are operating on forged national permits;

(b) whether the Delhi Transport Authority has apprehended a few forged permits and receipts; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken to prevent this national loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) and (b) Delhi Administration have detected seven trucks operation on forged National Permits.

(c) Prosecution has been launched against the drivers/permit holders of these vehicles by the Delhi Transport Authorities and other concerned State Transport Authorities have also been requested by them to initiate action against those who were operating on forged permits purported to have been issued by those authorities.

Workers in tea gardens of Assam

2085. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of permanent workers in the tea gardens of Assam during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) what is the total number of temporary workers employed in the tea gardens of Assam during the same period?