

(c) The Government are aware of the dissatisfaction in some quarters with the composition of the past delegations. However, if the Government decide to send a delegation for the coming Haj they would make every effort to make the composition as broad-based and as representatives as possible.

Supply of enriched uranium for the Tarapur Atomic Power Plant

†*249. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY:

SHRI SITARAM KESRI:

SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:

SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN:

SHRI S. K. VAISHAM-PAYAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's Ambassador in U.S.A. called on the Secretary of State of that country on the 8th April, 1978 and urged upon him for the release of 7.6 tonnes of enriched uranium for the Tarapur Atomic Power Plant;

(b) if so, whether the U.S. Government have cleared the shipment of enriched uranium for the plant;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government have made alternative arrangements by tapping other sources of supply to keep the plant in operation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Yes, Sir. This was

one of the subjects discussed during the Indian Ambassador's call on the US Secretary of State on the 7th April, 1978.

(b) and (c) On the 26th January, 1978, the Executive Branch of the US Government had recommended to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission that the licence for the supply of 7.6 tonnes of enriched uranium to India be issued. On April 20, 1978, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), which is a quasi-judicial body, was unable to come to a decision on account of a 2—2 tied vote and the question was referred by the NRC back to the US President according to the pertinent US law. The President has since issued an Executive Order on the 27th April, 1978 authorising the export of this consignment to India. This Executive Order will lie before the US Congress for 60 legislative days and if no action is taken by the Congress to disapprove the Executive Order during this period, the shipment will be made thereafter.

(d) Our agreement with the Government of USA precludes the procurement of nuclear fuel for the Tarapur Atomic Plant from any other country. Attention is also invited in this connection to the Prime Minister's statement in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th April, 1978 on this subject.

Meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh River Commission

*250. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD:

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS:

SHRI DEVENDRA NATH DWIVEDI:

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indo-Bangladesh River Commission held a meeting recently; and

†Previously Starred Question 110, transferred from the 27th April, 1978.