

Disappearance of as Atomic Scientist

193. SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Swapan Kumar Sarkar an atomic scientist disappeared five years ago from the Turamdih camp;

(b) if so, when his disappearance was first noticed and reported; and

(c) what steps Government have so far taken to trace his whereabouts?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) It is a fact that Shri Swapan Kumar Sarkar disappeared from the Turamdih Camp 4½ years ago.

(b) His disappearance was first noticed and reported in November 1973.

(c) The Bihar State Police in spite of their best efforts have not been able to find any clue as to the disappearance of Shri Sarkar in a news item which appeared in October 1974, mention was made that Shri Sarkar was alive and had taken to life of an ascetic. The Government of Bihar deputed a team of C.I.D. Officers to inquire into the matter. The inquiry made by the State Police does not establish that Shri Sarkar has either been killed or has been a victim of an accident. The Police authorities finally closed the case in August 1976 as no trace of the missing scientist could be found by them.

Facilities in Tihar Jail

194. DR. V. P. DUTT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he visited the Central Jail, Tihar on the

11th April, 1978 and asked the officials of the Jail to improve conditions in the Jail and to provide more facilities for the inmates; and

(b) what are the details of the additional facilities likely to be provided to the inmates of the Jail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) and (b) The Home Minister visited the Central Jail, Tihar on 11 April, 1978 and generally suggested improvements in the conditions of the Jail. The Delhi Administration has constituted four Committees to study the problems and make recommendations for improving the conditions in Tihar Jail. Some of the steps already taken or proposed to be taken by the Delhi Administration in this regard are as follows: —

- (i) Congestion in the jail has been reduced.
- (ii) Sanitary conditions have been improved.
- (iii) The frequency of interviews has been increased.
- (iv) Some barracks have been provided with fans.
- (v) Increased recreational facilities are being provided.
- (vi) Cultural programmes are being arranged and TV sets have also been provided.
- (vii) The double grating system of interview is being replaced by the single grating system.

Causes of fire in the Television Studio at Srinagar

195. DR. V. P. DUTT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what were the causes of the fire that destroyed the Srinagar Television Studio on the 3rd April 1978;