

done anything of the kind. You will agree that this House cannot just allow these things to go by. It is our duty and also, I think, you will agree that it is proper that you kindly find some time for discussing this according to the convenience of the Prime Minister. Many notices have been given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is all right. You made out your point. Now Papers to be laid on the Table.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Sir, a discussion is necessary. In the Press it has been reported that plutonium 238 and 239 have been involved and they will have a very dangerous effect on the human population. Unless we have a discussion, those cannot be understood.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Research Programme for better Fuel efficiency

*122. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state'

(a) whether it is a fact that the Steel Authority of India Limited and the MECON have adopted a programme of research for better fuel efficiency;

(b) whether Government have received reports about tests with the Indian coal for Sumitovne briquet-ti'ng; and

(c) whether SAIL's research programmes have been coordinated with those of the Fuel Research Institute and CM.P.D.I.9

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

The Research and Development Organisation of Steel Authority of India has taken up a number of research and development programmes | projects for improvement of fuel efficiency at the Steel Plants. Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited is not directly involved therein but is associated in a few projects as a consultancy organisation. The programmes are coordinated with Central Fuel Research Institute and Central Mine Planning and Design Institute to avoid any duplication of efforts except where, because of the importance of the projects, more than one approach is considered useful.

No briquetting tests on Indian coals have been carried out by M/s. Sumitomo of Japan on behalf of Steel Authority of India Limited. However, laboratory screening tests on Indian coals have been recently conducted by M/s. Nippon Steel Corporation of Japan as a preliminary step to decide whether their briquette blend coking process can be adopted by the steel plants in India.

Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant

*125. SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA; SHRI C. D. NATARAJAN; SHRI R. NARSHIMA REDDY; SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN;

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount sanctioned for the construction of the Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant; and

(b) what progress has so far been made in setting up the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) and (b) The Detailed Project Report

(DPR) which was commissioned in April, 1975 was received from the Consultants in October, 1977 and is under scrutiny by Steel Authority of India Limited. Meanwhile, preliminary works like land acquisition, soil investigation, raw material testing, etc. have been going on.

An amount of Rs- 1 crore has been provided for in the budget proposals for 1978-79 for continuation of preliminary works.

Demand for Government Supervision for Haj Pilgrimage

*126 SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Muslims of Mewat who have been to Mecca and Medina on Haj pilgrimage have urged upon the Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia to take responsibility for Haj pilgrims instead of leaving them in the care of local contractors; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) No, Sir. No such suggestion was made to the Indian Embassy in Jeddah. It may be added that there are no local contractors but there are Mutawwifs (Pilgrims' Guides) who look after the pilgrims under Saudi Arabian Regulations which apply uniformly to all pilgrims from all over the world.

(b) Does not arise.

Manufacture of Neutron Bomb by U.S.A.

*127 SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA: SHRI G. D. LAKSHMANAN: SHRI R. NATRAJAN: SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY:

276 RS—2.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of U.S.A. have decided to manufacture neutron bomb; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) The U. S. Government have, in fact, decided to defer production of the neutron bomb but have linked it to future Soviet action.

(b) The Government of India, in keeping with its firm and consistent policy of opposition to nuclear weapons and all other categories of weapons of mass destruction stand for the prohibition of the neutron bomb.

Issue of a Commemorative Postage Stamp

*128. SHRI M. KADERSHAH: SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision in regard to the issue of a commemorative postage stamp in the memory of Periyar E. V. Ramaswamy Naicker has been taken; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Nawrangpura Telephone Exchange

*129. PROF RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: