

Supply of nuclear fuel by the U.S.A.

*164. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA
NAIDU:

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA
REDDY:

SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that U.S. Government has assured the Government of India for the supply of next consignment of nuclear fuel in time;

(b) if so, by when the next consignment of the nuclear fuel is likely to be received;

(c) whether the Government of India have made any request to the U.S. Government for the supply; and

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

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) The matter is still pending with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to whom the favourable recommendation of the U.S. State Department has been sent.

(b) It depends on the decision of the U.S. Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Two requests are pending; one for supply of 16.8 tonnes of enriched uranium was made on November 1, 1977 and the other for supply of 19.8 tonnes was made on September 18, 1978.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Sir, let there be silence. I cannot put my question if there is disturbance.

By what time will India's request for 16.8 tonnes and 19.8 tonnes of enriched uranium be complied with before September, 1979, when the USA, under the new legislation, will not be in a position to supply the nuclear

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Mulka Govinda Reddy.

fuel to India? Does it not mean unilateral abrogation of the solemn contract that was entered into between the U.S.A. and India for the supply of this fuel by the USA to India upto 1993? What steps are being taken for alternative source of supply in the event of U.S. refusal to supply fuel after 1979?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I have said and made it clear also to the U.S. Government that their not supplying this fuel or an undue delay in its supply will amount to a violation of the agreement on their side. That is what I have told them. As long as they have not refused it I cannot say there is violation. It is delay. That is all that I can say. I hope and trust that these supplies will be received within two or three months. This is what I hope. But if the agreement is violated then we are free to make other arrangements that we have to make. I cannot go about it as if the agreement has been violated. They have not violated today. And I can not violate the agreement.

SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA: Sir...

MR. CHAIRMAN: On the list there are two more persons to ask their supplementary. Before they complete how can I give you the chance?

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: While the U.S.A. blocked the sale of Viggen aircraft to India, is it not a fact that the United States have authorised the French Government to see American designed nuclear power plant to China without insisting on the stringent safeguards that the Carter Administration has been trying to clamp down on India? Does it not amount to discriminatory treatment? May I know whether the Government have agreed to the appointment of an international committee of scientists to look into the question of full-scope safeguards with reference to the supply of nuclear fuel to India? If so, does it not have a bearing on the future of nuclear technology and research and also on

our national security and sovereignty? Has it come to the knowledge of the Government that Pakistan is clandestinely acquiring nuclear technology and equipment to set up a centrifuge plant for enrichment of uranium which would ultimately lead to nuclear capability?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: As I said, Sir, that the agreement is not violated by them. I cannot say it is violated. If they have done something else to other people I cannot have any quarrel with them about it. It is a free country as other countries are. What am I to tell them? If in a similar agreement something had happened elsewhere, then certainly I would have called it a discriminatory treatment. No such thing has happened. About Pakistan I do not know how far they have gone. They are trying to do something. This is the information I have received. Beyond that I cannot give any further information.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Sir, he has not answered my question. That is why I am repeating this question. While appreciating the Prime Minister's address to the U.N. that all nuclear weapons should be destroyed within a period of ten years, what other steps are being taken by Government to implement the Prime Minister's proposals with regard to the destruction of nuclear weapons?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I do not follow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He could not follow. Please repeat.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: While appreciating the Prime Minister's address to U.N. that all nuclear weapons should be destroyed within ten years, what other steps the Government are following to implement the Prime Minister's proposal?

MR. CHAIRMAN: To destroy nuclear weapons within a period of ten years.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: It is not within the powers of India to destroy them. We can only try to persuade. Our efforts are continuing.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, over the last few weeks we have been very much disturbed to read reports about a joint Committee of scientists to which our Government seems to have agreed about the guarantee that there will be full-scope safeguards.

It is a committee of scientists jointly of the United States and of India to decide on full-scope safeguards or whatever it is that the Government is planning to do in the long run. I would like to know from the Prime Minister what it was that prompted the Government to accept such a proposal, whether they were compelled to accept it, what were the reasons behind it, and what does the Government accept by bartering away sovereignty of the country and accepting the American scientists to decide whether or not the Indian installations are safe, whether they should be under international supervision; and what really prompted the Government to give a promise that was made in the two Houses that the sovereignty of the country would not be bartered away on this question.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I do not know how these presumptions are made. There is no question of giving up the sovereignty of our country to anybody; nor is there any question of giving up our stand on it. If by an agreement, the scientists of America, the scientists of India and the scientists of other nations like us consider together that safeguards should be there to see that nuclear weapons are not made, then the condition is that the safeguards must be applicable to all. If such safeguards are found necessary and they all accept them, that

means the nuclear weapon powers also accept it, then there is no question of our not accepting them because then they will also be liable to inspection. That is all the meaning of it. I do not know why they are putting more meaning into it.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Excuse me, Sir. I am only talking of the joint Indo-American team.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: You do not know. It is not a joint Indo-U.S. team. It is a team of scientists of several countries and not two countries.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : श्रीमन्, प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कहा कि अगर इस तरह का अपना कोई एग्जिमेन्ट है और उसमें डिस्क्रीमिनेशन होता कब तक वह डिस्क्रीमिनेशन मानेंगे । श्रीमन्, एक तरफ तो माननीय कार्टर साहब कहते हैं कि न्यूक्लियर वेपन्स सम्पन्न करने चाहिए और हमारे देश का ऐसा ही उपदेश देते हैं और दूसरी तरफ वे चीन को फ्रांस के माध्यम से न्यूक्लियर टेक्नालजी दिलवा रहे हैं । हमारा खयाल है कि अमरीका की सरकार प्रेजिडेंट की इजाजत के बिना ऐसा नहीं कर रही है उनकी सहमति में ही कर रही है । इसलिये यह डिस्क्रीमिनेशन है । मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि अ.रीका की ओर से और विशेष तौर से माननीय कार्टर साहब की ओर से वे इसको डिस्क्रीमिनेशन मानते हैं या नहीं मानते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान के साथ दूसरी नीति और चीन के साथ दूसरी नीति । तो न्यूक्लियर वेपन्स के सम्बन्ध में उनकी जो यह नीति है उसमें ऐसा डिस्क्रीमिनेशन है या नहीं है ?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: It would be discrimination if what they have to give us they do not give us and they give them what they do not have to give them. But that is not the

question. They are not giving them enriched uranium. But there are some materials which they were giving them in different fields. We have not asked for them. There is no question of refusal to us. We do not want anything like that. Therefore, there is no question of discrimination in this matter.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : श्रीमन्, इ से ज़ा मैंने बात पूछी यह हुई.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, it is clear.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : अखबारों में आया है कि फ्रांस के माध्यम से अ.रीका न्यूक्लियर वेपन्स चीन को दिलवा रहा है और हमको कहता है कि न्यूक्लियर वेपन्स बनाने की बात मत सोचो । यह डिस्क्रीमिनेशन तो साफ है ।

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Sir, may I know from the Prime Minister...

(Interruptions)

You please do not distract me. I am asking a serious question. You can be a jester, but I can't be one.

SHRI PILOO MODY: You can only be an expert on all subjects.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: May I know from the Prime Minister one or two things? He has in reply to various questions so far stated that violation has not taken place. One can appreciate it till actual violation takes place. But I would like to know from him whether, keeping in view the country's paramount interest of developing the nuclear technology, the programme of our new installations at Rana Pratap, Madras and in U.P., has been delayed because of the non-co-operation of these belligerent countries. That is one. Secondly, has the Government of India urged the Atomic

Energy Commission to develop other type of material like thorium for fusion which will be alternatively used if and when the U.S. Government finally rejects or finally puts more hurdle? I can appreciate and understand the Prime Minister's high moral approach and charitable view of giving the maximum latitude to the United States, but ultimately in international diplomacy one has to take one's country's paramount interests also in a more important way. For this purpose, what are the Government's intentions about developing the other types of substances which could be used alternatively?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: The other plants which we are putting up are not meant to work in the same system as the Tarapore. Therefore, we are not dependent on the U.S. for those plants. They are not delayed because of that. There are other processes which are being utilised there. Therefore, that is not the question at all. And here also, as I said, we will be free to do it ourselves in any manner that we think best if the agreement is broken.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: The Prime Minister has replied that there has been no violation of the agreement so far. But so far as we can understand from various reports, at one stage the United States Administration refused to honour the agreement. Our Prime Minister had to go all the way to the United States of America to meet not only the U.S. President but also the U.S. Congress, and then a certain statement was made by him regarding the nuclear policy of India. Only after that, for a limited time they agreed to consider the question of supplying the nuclear fuel to our country, but not upto the period originally stipulated. Does this not constitute a departure from the original agreement in any way? What is the information of the Government of India and what alternative sources of supply, without

compromising in any way the position of the Government of India, are being considered by the Government of India?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Sir, the legislation which has been passed by the United States Congress comes into effect within 18 months. According to that, the President will not be able to give us the fuel. Then, of course, it is definitely a breach. I have told him that that the legislation was absolutely *ultra vires* the agreement because the agreement preceded it, that there was no question of any such thing arising and that he would have to find a way out of it. It is that way that they are seeking a solution. I do not know whether they will be able to do it. If that happens, if they cease to make the supplies, then we are free to find out methods to carry on our work to the best of our capacity. And we intend to do it and we are determined to do it.

श्री शिव चन्द्र सा : मैं प्रधानमंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही नहीं है कि तारापुर एटोमिक प्लांट के लिए जो कनवेंशन अमेरिका से आने वाला था उसमें हमने डीले-डले टेक्टिक्स अख्तियार किए और बहुत ही मुश्किल में, देर से रिलीज किया। यह मेरा पहला सवाल है। (Interruptions)
एक बात और मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें देरी क्यों हुई जबकि चीन ने स्वीकार किया कि उसने तुरन्त फॉर्म के जरिये रिएक्टर को चेचने का अधिकार दे दिया। इन सब की रेश-आऊट करने के लिए क्या आपने एक हिन्दुस्तानी और अमेरिकन साइंटिस्ट्स की एक कमेटी बनाई है जो कि ब्लू रिबन कमेटी के नाम से अखबारों में बात आई है? मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वे कौन से डिफरेंसज और डिसक्रिमीनेशन की बात हैं जिनको तय करने के लिए कमेटी बनाई गई है?

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : इसका जवाब तो मैंने दे दिया है, कमेटी के बारे में भी क्या

कमेट्री है, क्या कर रही है क्या बन रही है, किसकी बन रही है वह भी मैंने कहा है ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, I must express my anxiety and perhaps the anxiety of many other people of the country over the Government's systematic back-sliding on the matter of nuclear policy. The hon. Prime Minister once unilaterally decided not to resort to even nuclear implosion for peaceful purposes. I am not speaking for explosion for belligerent purposes or something like that. Then he has agreed—of course, when a sovereign Government agrees, it agrees voluntarily—to international inspection, to subject our own functioning to international inspection. Sir, this is a very disturbing, if not alarming, back-sliding on the matter of nuclear policy.

Secondly, Sir, we cannot be blind to the very disturbing fact that some of our very militarily powerful neighbouring countries who have superior nuclear capability and others who are about to develop it, are getting support from sources other than the U.S. but are not subjecting their experimental process to international inspection. Now, against this background, why should we subject our experimental process to international inspection? Technically, in the very narrow technical sense, the U.S. may not be resorting to discrimination. We may not abuse the U.S. of discriminatory treatment, but, in fact, we are subjecting ourselves to a disabling inspection under international auspices and leaving the other nuclear powers, some superior, some about to come up, free in this matter. Is it not endangering our safety? This is a very vital question. One should not evade it in a technical or other way. I want a very fair and convincing answer from the Prime Minister on this matter.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I do not know whether I can be convincing to any person who does not want to be

convinced. But the nuclear policy which this Government has been following.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please hear.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: The nuclear policy that we are following is not newly made by us. It has been our policy for all the past years, started by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, that we will not have anything to do with nuclear weapons and that we will develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. That is the policy to which we are adhering. And if any explosion can be made without any fall-outs and without any such experiments which lead to the manufacture of atomic weapons, but is only used for peaceful purposes, that explosion is never debarred.

SHRI SANKAR GHOSE: We did that last year.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: That was not for that purpose. I do not agree with it. No use saying all this. I do not want to be involved in this, but there is no question of our giving any undertaking to anybody about any international inspection of our plants. We have never agreed to it. We have only said that we can agree to an inspection only if all the nuclear powers also agree to the inspection of their nuclear installations. Then only we can agree; otherwise, we cannot agree.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mahapatro.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Again this is a technical answer. I am sorry. The Prime Minister is saying that no departure has taken place from the policy hitherto pursued. Now, it is a matter of record whether any other Government, other than this Government, agreed to international inspections. And, secondly whether the Prime Minister will...

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: How can he ask a second question?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Of course, a second question, because it is a technical answer, an exercise in evasion. Answer is part of expression.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you are not the first person to put questions.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: The question is, he says there is no departure. I say, there is departure in subjecting our installations to inspection. Is it not for the first time that it has been agreed to?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mahapatro.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, why are you calling Mr. Mahapatro? I am asking for an answer. You may say it is wrong or impermissible. But why should you brush me aside?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has given the answer.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: We have not agreed to any inspection, international inspection or any other country's inspection. I have categorically replied to that.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Why then has that committee been set up and what is it going to do? Is it for fun?

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: In view of the latest stance of this Government as far as nuclear policy is concerned, especially in subjecting ourselves or agreeing to subject ourselves to international inspection, and also *ad infinitum* to wait . . . (Interruption) . . . till the violation of the contract that was earlier entered into, without exploring other sources of getting the thing required for the country, there is the accusation that is being levelled by a big section of the people that while one Ambassador likes to kiss the shoe of the mother, the Prime Minister is very much bending to touch the feet of the U.S. Congress, I would like to know how long the Prime Minister

is going to play, to the tune of the U.S.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: There is no question of bending to any Government or bending to anybody. There is no question of that at all. I do not know how that arises unless they only want to prove their thesis. I do not know if it has emanated from them. Where is the question of anything like that? I cannot understand how there is a question of any inspection. I have said that no inspection is agreed to at all.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Is it not a fact that the developed countries . . .

SHRI HAREKRUSHNA MALLICK: Sir, the honourable Member there used words like 'bending or touching the feet'. Such expressions should not be used. They should be expunged.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Don't interrupt.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, is it not a fact that the developed countries who are members of the nuclear club are wanting to put down non-proliferation through our throats through all sorts of pressures, etc.? Therefore, may I know from the Prime Minister, when he agrees to this sort of an arrangement, if it is all in the air that the scientists are the first to evolve a formula and then if the countries accept, then we will accept it? May I know from him whether the head of any other country or any other government has accepted what he has accepted? It is putting the cart before the horse.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I do not know what my honourable friend imagines. What have I accepted? We have only said that this committee of scientists, not from two countries...

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Has any other head of government accepted this position that if the scientists evolve a formula for inspection of the

nuclear installations, all the countries will accept?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has understood it.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: That is accepted by many countries; it is not a question of this country. All are agreed on non-proliferation of atomic weapons. Of that there is no question. Even the nuclear weapon powers also do not want proliferation except in their own areas. That is all they want. We want to stop it. That is why we have said that we are not going to accept any safeguards which are not applicable to them also, and until that is done, there is no question. But there is no objection, there can be no objection, to exploring avenues or finding out safeguards which can prevent all people from taking to these things. That is all that we want.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: The point that the Prime Minister has repeatedly said is that there is no discrimination. Now, the substance of the matter is development of nuclear technology; it is not a question of this treaty or that treaty. There is a clear attempt at violating the contractual obligation. In this situation, the US Congress has come forward with a legislation which compels the President to intervene. This is the attitude of the USA. At this moment in an Indo-American committee you agreed to a panel of scientists coming, and you say there is no discrimination on the question of nuclear technology. America is helping Pakistan and China and is trying to stop us. In the context of that, agreeing to such a Committee is clear backsliding and playing into the hands of the imperialists.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: It is the same thing. I do not quite understand what is the new point that is being asked.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Why did you agree to this?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: That is what I have not been told. I have not agreed to anything. A Committee is examining safeguards which will achieve non-proliferation and which will apply to all countries, not only to us. I do not know what is wrong in exploring this thing . . . (Interruptions).

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: The Prime Minister has stated that so long there is no violation of the agreement, but there has been delay. I would like to know if the agreement did not have a time table or timing for the supply of this fuel and if this delay does not amount to a violation of the agreement. He has also said that if they refuse, we shall look for other arrangements. How long will they take and will not this delay affect the working of our plants? Lastly, are we not in a position to produce our own fuel? I am not a technical man. But what I hear is, if we take a decision and if we have the political will, we should be able to produce it for our own need.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: If we are able to produce today, I should be very happy to do it today. I should like to produce it. That requires time. We are not sitting idle in this matter, we do not want our plant to stop. But we cannot do anything in violation of the agreement to which we are bound, because they are delaying it. This delay I cannot call a violation.

SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN: I would like to know whether the Government of India have expressed their unhappiness to the U.S. Government regarding this delay in supplying nuclear fuel. I should also like to know from the Prime Minister whether there is any proposal under consideration to put an end to this contract or agreement, whatever you might call it, regarding supply of nuclear fuel.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I have already told the U.S. Government not

once, but twice or thrice that this is not fair and they are not properly carrying out the agreement.

इंजीनियरिंग प्रोजेक्ट्स इंडिया के ठेके के संबंध में जांच समिति का प्रतिवेदन

* 165. श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही† :

श्री आर० आर० मोरारका :

क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कुवैत में अरदिया में भवना के निर्माण के लिये इंजीनियरिंग प्रोजेक्ट्स इंडिया को 230 करोड़ रुपये का जो ठेका मिला था, उसको पूरा करने में हुए विलम्ब की जांच करने के लिए इंजीनियरिंग प्रोजेक्ट्स इंडिया लिमिटेड के चेयरमैन श्री फजल द्वारा नियुक्त की गई समिति का प्रतिवेदन सरकार को प्राप्त हो गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो समिति के निष्कर्षों के अनुसार विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) निर्माण कार्यक्रम के भावी चरणों का सख्ती से अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाये हैं ?

†[Enquiry Committee Report on the E. P. I. contract .

*165. SHRI NAGESHWAR PRA-

SAD SHAHI:†

SHRI R. R. MORARKA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the report of the Committee appointed by Shri Fazal, Chairman of the Engineering Projects of India Limited to enquire into the delay in the completion of the contract of Rs. 230 crores awarded to the En-

gineering Projects of India for construction of houses at Ardiya in Kuwait;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay as per the findings of the Committee; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to ensure that the future phases of the construction schedule are strictly adhered to?]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b) Shri Fazal, Chairman of Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. has not appointed any Committee to enquire into the delay in the completion of the Ain Baghze Housing Project (formerly known as the Ardiya Housing Project). However, a Committee of the Board of Directors of EPI has been monitoring the progress of the Ain Baghze Housing Project as also certain other projects abroad. There has been some delay in the execution of the Ain Baghze Housing Project on account of delay in the handing over of the site to EPI, and unexpected delays in approval of designs, drawings and samples of materials which led to consequential delays in procurement of materials. Several days' work was also lost because of the 16 day strike by the workmen of the associate contractors of EPI in July, 1978.

(c) Government have instructed EPI to take all necessary steps to adhere to the revised construction schedule which is under finalisation in consultation with the National Housing Authority, Kuwait. The Committee of Directors is closely monitoring the progress and EPI is ensuring the mobilisation of Additional manpower and machinery for adhering to the revised schedule. The Project Management Staff in Kuwait is being strengthened and some changes have already been made. More work-force is being mobilised to accelerate the tempo of construction activity at site and production facilities are being augmented to ensure matching

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Nageshwar Prasad Shahi.

‡[] English translation.