

Manufacture of Neutron Bomb by U.S.A.

*132. SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN:
SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:
SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOUDHURY:
SHRI N. P. CHAUDHURI:
SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent decision of the U.S. Government to go in for manufacture of neutron bombs, new "Cruise" missiles and new B-1 bombers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Government has seen newspaper reports about the development by the United States of weapons of mass destruction such as neutron bombs, as well as systems of their delivery such as the Cruise missiles and B-1 bombers. While it is reported that the U.S. Government has decided not to proceed with the manufacture of B-1 bombers, no official confirmation is available in regard to the decision of the U.S. Government concerning the production of neutron bombs and the "Cruise" missiles.

(b) The Government of India has always remained totally opposed to all categories of weapons of mass destruction as well as their systems of delivery. Government has been consistently of the view that in this nuclear age lasting world peace can only be based on the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control, with the highest priority being accorded to nuclear disarmament and elimination of all categories of weapons of mass destruction.

*133. [Transferred to the 27th July, 1977].

Bonus to Workers

*134. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments have recently represented to the Central Government to amend the Bonus Act so as to ensure payment of minimum bonus at the rate of 8.33 per cent to the workers;

(b) if so, when such representations were received; and

(c) what action Central Government propose to take thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some State Governments have done so. The question was also raised at the Labour Ministers' Conference held on the 20th April, 1977.

(c) The matter is receiving attention.

U.S. Base in Diego Garcia

*135. DR. Z. A. AHMAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently held any discussions with the Government of U.S.A. regarding the U.S. Naval base in Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean; and

(b) if so, what was the stand taken by the U.S. Government during these discussions?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) No, Sir. There have been no formal discussions regarding the U.S. naval base in Diego Garcia as such, but after US Secretary of State Vance's visit to Moscow