

DEEP-SHORE AND OFF-SHORE DRILLING***217. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN:****SHRI K. C. PANDA:****SHRI K. SUNDARAM:**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to set up a public sector undertaking for the off-shore and deep-shore drilling; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री (SHRI PARKASH CHAND B. SETHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SOVIET MOVE TO CALL CONFERENCE OF NUCLEAR POWERS***218. SHRI CHITTA BASU:****SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/विदेश मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of any Soviet move to convene a conference of the five nuclear powers—namely, USSR, U.S.A., China, Britain and France; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/विदेश मंत्री (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India have been traditionally in favour of moves directed towards general and complete disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament.

SELF-RELIANCE IN DEFENCE EQUIPMENTS

***219. DR. Z. A. AHMAD:** Will the MINISTER OF DEFENCE/रक्षा मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made towards self-reliance in the production of defence equipments needed by the country;

(b) the extent to which the work of the defence research and development wing has helped in achieving progress in this direction;

(c) whether there is any plan to expand the defence research and development wing;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the expenditure that has been incurred for defence research and development during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE/रक्षा मंत्रालय (रक्षा उत्पादन) में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) We have achieved a considerable measure of self-sufficiency in the production of equipment required for the three Services. In the case of the Army, very considerable progress has been made in the field of small arms, ordnance, and communications equipment. The requirements of the Air Force are being met in increasing measure by indigenous production and a beginning has been made in the construction of warships for the Navy by the Leander Frigate Programme.

(b) The Defence Research & Development Organisation undertakes design and development of new equipment and modifications/improvements to the existing ones to meet the requirements of the Services. The equipment developed is productionised in Government Factories, Public Sector Undertakings or private sector industry. Considerable efforts are devoted in finding import substitutes for materials and stores to assist in the overall production effort. Large number of items developed so far have gone into bulk production after acceptance. These efforts have helped in bringing about a very large measure of self-sufficiency in the production of defence equipment.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is the intention to increase the annual expenditure on Defence Research & Development Organisation to a figure of Rs. 46 crores by 1975-76 from the level of Rs. 17.55 crores in 1970-71.

(e) Expenditure incurred on the Defence Research and Development Organisation during the last three years is as follows:—

1968-69	Rs. 12.72 crores.
1969-70	Rs. 14.54 crores.
1970	Rs. 17.55 crores (Revised Estimates)