

DESALINATION OF SEA WATER

279. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government have considered the technical feasibility of desalination of sea water as a result of the emergence of nuclear power at a competitive price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI M. S. GURUPADA-SWAMY): Yes, Sir. Feasibility studies on a combined nuclear power station and a desalination plant have been carried out in the past and the subject is also under constant review.

CHANGE IN THE CODE OF A.I.R.

280. SHRI NIREN GHOSH:
SYED NAUSHER ALI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to change the All India Radio code; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH): (a) No, Sir, as no specific suggestion is so far received. Suggestions when received will be considered.

(b) Does not arise.

CHANDA COMMITTEE ON ALL INDIA RADIO

281. SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN): Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Chanda Committee on the All India Radio have been considered by Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government reaction to a majority of the recommendations is contained in the statements laid on the Table of the House on 24th August, 1966, 29th November, 1966 and 21st March, 1967.

INSTALLATION OF TRANSMITTERS IN BORDER AREAS

282. SHRI M. S. OBEROI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: the progress made so far in the installation of transmitters in the border areas to counter the Chinese and Pakistani propaganda there?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH): The equipment for four out of the fifteen powerful transmitters proposed to be set up at various centres along the border has already been received. The installations at Jullundur and Calcutta are expected to be completed during the current year. The remaining thirteen installations are likely to be commissioned progressively during the course of the next three years. In addition, a low power transmitter in N.E.F.A. has already been commissioned and five more for which the equipment has already been ordered, are expected to be set up during the course of the next two years.

LAUNCHING OF ROCKET

283. SHRI K. SUNDARAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a two-stage rocket (Indian-made) was launched from the Thumba Rocket launching Station near Trivandrum on April 19, 1967; and

(b) if so, to what extent the experiment has been successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY):

(a) The rocket which was launched from the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station on April 19, 1967, was a French-made and not Indian-made Centaure rocket. It carried a payload which consisted of indigenously developed airborne instrumentation as well as a Langmuir Probe, which was designed and indigenously developed at the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad.

(b) The launching was mainly intended to check the flight-worthiness and performance of the Indian-made payload and instrumentation. The experiment was completely successful. The Langmuir Probe collected useful information about the electron density distribution and electron temperature in the upper atmosphere from 80 km. to 130 km.

U. S. ARMS AID TO INDIA

284. SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of U.S.A. have lifted the embargo on the sales of military spare parts to India; and

(b) if so, since when the embargo has been lifted and what material advantage will be obtained as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) On 12th April, 1967, U. S. Government announced resumption of sales on cash on a case by case basis of spares for lethal equipment already supplied in the past to India and Pakistan. Sales on cash or credit basis of non-lethal equipments and spares had been resumed by them earlier in March, 1966.

The resumption of sales of spare parts for lethal equipment would not be of any significant advantage to us.

MIZO NATIONAL FRONT'S APPROACH TO U. THANT

285. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the members of the Mizo National Front approached the United Nations General Secretary, U Thant, to intervene in their dispute with the Government of India; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to such an approach?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA):

(a) and (b) The Government are making enquiries and the results will be made available when known.

286. [Transferred to the 9th June, 1967.]

WITHDRAWAL OF UNEF TROOPS FROM ISRAELI BORDERS

287. SHRI K. SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Security Council meeting was recently called to consider the question of U. A. R. demand to withdraw the UNEF troops from Israeli borders;

(b) if so, what was India's view as expressed at the meeting; and

(c) what decision was taken by the Security Council in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA):

(a) to (c) At the instance of certain powers, a Security Council meeting was convened to consider the situation in West Asia. However, this meeting was adjourned as the Secretary-General of the United Nations had proceeded to Cairo. The Security Council may meet again after the report of the U. N. Secretary-General on the situation in West Asia is submitted.