

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) The U.S. National Defense Authorisation Act, signed into a law by the U.S. President on 31 December 2011, imposes sanctions in the form of prohibition from access to the U.S. financial system for foreign financial institutions that engage in significant financial transactions with effect from 28 June 2012 with the Central Bank of Iran or other U.S. designated Iranian financial institutions for sale or purchase of petroleum products from Iran. The law provides for exemption from sanctions for the concerned foreign financial institutions engaging in such transactions, if the U.S. determines that the country of primary transaction has significantly reduced its petroleum imports from Iran. The U.S. has further issued an Executive Order on 6 February 2012, which requires U.S. financial institutions to freeze any transaction connected with Government of Iran or any Iranian financial institution passing through its system. EU has imposed various sanctions on Iran since 2007 in response to its concerns over Iran's nuclear proliferation activities. Further, the European Union Foreign Affairs Council announced on 23 January, 2012 its decision to impose new sanctions on Iran. The new sanctions impose a ban on new contracts for imports by EU member countries of crude oil, petroleum products and petrochemicals from Iran with immediate effect. An allowance, however, has been made for execution of existing contracts till 1 July 2012 for crude oil and petroleum products.

The U.S. law follows the designation of the financial sector of Iran as a jurisdiction of primary money laundering concern by the U.S. Government in November 2011. The U.S. maintains that the sanctions on Iran are aimed to support its goal of persuading Iran abide by the UNSC and IAEA resolutions pertaining to Iran's nuclear programme. The stated reason of the latest sanctions on Iran imposed by EU was to encourage Iran to return to negotiations without preconditions.

It is the publicly stated policy of the U.S., as reflected in the Section 1245 of the National Defense Authorisation Act, that the U.S. President shall persuade countries purchasing oil from Iran to limit the use by Iran of revenue from purchases of oil to purchases of non-luxury consumer goods from the country purchasing the oil. It has also publically called upon countries importing petroleum products to reduce their dependence on Iran.

Government implements its obligations under the UN Security Council Resolutions on Iran. We continue to maintain that we are bound by UN sanctions and unilateral sanctions imposed by countries or group of countries should not impact legitimate trade relations with Iran.

#### **Uranium found in fish from Nagarjunasagar Dam**

\*56. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that researchers funded by Bhabha Atomic

Research Centre have found Uranium in fish caught in the Nagarjunasagar Dam in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has awarded a project to SRM University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu for a comprehensive study of uranium content in various environmental matrices including water and 'biota' *i.e.*, the animal and/or plant life of a particular habitat, of Nagarjunasagar reservoir in Andhra Pradesh, since the water from the said reservoir is used for drinking purposes in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad of Andhra Pradesh. Under the same study/project the measurement of uranium content in fish, samples has also been carried out. Due to its natural occurrence in soil and rocks of the earth crust, uranium is present in all environmental matrices such as air, water, soil, sediment, food materials and the biota. Its concentration in soil varies from 1 to 5 micro grammes per gram *i.e.* 1 to 5 parts in a, million parts of a gram; it varies in water from 1 to 3 nanogrammes per milliliter *i.e.* 1 to 3 parts of a billion parts of a milliliter; while in fish it varies from 5 to 60 nanogrammes per gram (wet weight). In Nagarjunasagar reservoir, the uranium content in fish was found to vary from 20 to 30 nanogrammes per gram of fish (wet weight) which is within the normal concentration range in fish found in other parts of the country.

#### **Roads in tribal dominated areas of Jharkhand**

\*57. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any special proposal to construct roads in the tribal dominated areas of Jharkhand which have not been connected by roads so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Tribal Affairs Ministry has requested the Ministry to give them funds directly for the development of roads in tribal dominated areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Ministry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways in the country. The development and maintenance of other roads is the responsibility of respective State Government. However, development of 504 km of National Highways and 256 km of State Roads in Jharkhand has been approved under the programme for development of roads in Left Wing Extremism affected areas in Jharkhand, which are predominantly tribal areas.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.