

Lifting of ban on export of dual-use Nuclear Technology

897. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Canada, like USA and UK, has lifted ban on export of dual-use nuclear technology to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely share of Canada for co-operation in our nuclear programme and projects likely to be covered during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNALAFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) During his visit to Canada from 25-27 September, 2005 the External Affairs Minister had discussions with the Canadian Foreign Minister on the issue of civilian nuclear cooperation. The two countries have agreed to develop a bilateral framework for nuclear safety collaboration. Canada also agreed to allow the supply of nuclear related dual use items to Indian civilian nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards, with appropriate assurances consistent with the requirements of the Nuclear Suppliers Group Dual Use Guidelines. India and Canada also agreed to pursue further opportunities for the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy both bilaterally and through the appropriate international for a, consistent with their international commitments. Further discussion on the issue will continue.

Increase of power generation capacity

†898. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to raise the atomic energy based power generation capacity of India to 2000 megawatts in the coming fifteen years;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to prevent any Chernobyl like accident while using the radio-active fuel on a large scale;

(c) Government's plan to increase the capacity utilization of the existing atomic energy based power generating plants and to make the safety measures more comprehensive and efficient; and

(d) whether Government are aware of this fact that the Ex-Chariman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board had raised some objections regarding

†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.

safety norms of the atomic power plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Current nuclear power capacity of 3310 MWe will be increased to 7280 MWe progressively by completion of projects under construction. More reactors are also planned to reach a capacity of about 20,000 MWe by the year 2020.

(b) Nuclear fuel has been used in the country since the year 1969 with an excellent safety record. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) has recorded 242 reactor years of safe operation. Chernobyl was a Light Water cooled Graphite moderated reactor (LWHR) of sixties vintage which had certain inherent weaknesses. Current reactors including those in India have several advanced safety feature mechanisms, double containment and are totally different in design from Chernobyl type of reactors. Also Indian nuclear power reactors are operated by well-qualified and licensed manpower in accordance with laid down procedures.

(c) The capacity utilization of nuclear power reactors is already above the national average level. In nuclear power plants a motto of 'Safety First — Production Later' is adopted. Robust safety mechanisms and an excellent safety culture are in place. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) ensures compliance of safety requirements in all aspects of nuclear power plants.

(d) All the issues raised by the Ex-Chairman of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board in respect of nuclear power plant have since been addressed and resolved.

Revision of present system of royalty on coal

†899. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the present system of royalty on coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when a new rate of royalty is likely to be implemented;

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