

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Department of Atomic Energy has not issued any licence for handling and export of either Monazite or Thorium to any private company.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Funds for SCSP and TSP

15. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds earmarked for Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) during last five financial years as per the guidelines issued by Planning Commission *vide* its letter dated 26 December, 2006;

(b) if no such funds were earmarked during the last five years, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether separate Budget Head has been opened for SCSP and TSP for financial year 2011-12 as mandated by the Department of Expenditure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Nil.

The Department of Atomic Energy being engaged in basic scientific research is exempted from an obligation for earmarking Plan funds under SCSP and TSP. However, the Department implements the schemes and guidelines dealing with recruitment and promotion of SCs and STs.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Visit of Australian Prime Minister

16. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recent visit of Australian Prime Minister in India;

(b) the pacts made between the two countries during this visit;

(c) whether Government has raised the issue of racial attacks on Indians in Australia; and

- (d) if so, the reaction of the Australian counterpart?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) Australian Prime Minister Ms. Julia Gillard paid a State Visit to India from 15-17 October, 2012. She called on the President, met the UPA Chairperson, the External Affairs Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh held delegation level talks with her. The talks covered bilateral cooperation and global issues. Several new initiatives aimed at consolidating and taking forward the strategic partnership were launched. Four MoUs were signed to further cooperation in Student Mobility and Welfare, Civil Space Science, Wool and Vocational Training. A Joint Press Statement was issued.

(c) and (d) The acts of violence against Indians and Indian students a few years ago was discussed. The measures taken by the Australian authorities to enhance security, improve immigration procedures and scrutinise its own institutions have led to a reduction in such incidents. It was emphasised that there is need to maintain a vigil to prevent its recurrence. The Australian side assured full cooperation to the Indian side.

Country's engagement with Iran

17. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's engagement with Iran has decreased over last five years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is under pressure from western countries on Iran nuclear issue;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of the impact on India's policy of non-alignment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Government takes decisions based on national interest and there is no question of coming under pressure from other countries. There has been no adverse impact on India's policy of non-alignment.