

projects and programmes. Some of these include short term capacity building training programmes in variety of areas such as agriculture, food processing and quality control, clean energy and sustainable development, information and communication technology etc.; long-term scholarships for higher studies and research; expertise sharing through civil society organizations, corporate sector, media; organization of academic seminars, conferences and strategic dialogues; enhancement of people-to-people contacts through innovative public diplomacy programmes; setting up of capacity building institutions in Africa; provision of concessional lines of credit, etc.

Our capacity building training programmes and academic fellowships have been immensely popular and our African partners have demanded more slots than were made available during the two Summits. Expertise sharing programmes have been successfully completed. Seminars, conferences and strategic dialogues have witnessed enthusiastic participation. Our people-to-people contact programmes, which are conducted through the External Publicity and Public Diplomacy Division of MEA, have resulted in increased interaction between our students, journalists, parliamentarians etc.

Africa accounts for over 60% of the total concessional lines of credit (LOCs) extended by the EXIM Bank of India. From April 2009 till June this year, LOCs over US\$ 4.2 billion have been extended to African countries.

The progress in setting up of capacity building institutions has been slower than what we would have liked. It is so primarily due to delays in response from the African Union or the countries selected, and lack of adequate funds and manpower to implement the projects offered under IAFS mechanism.

As we begin preparations for IAFS-III, we shall continue implementation of the decisions taken in 2008 and 2011, and expand those programmes, which have already been successfully implemented.

Proposal for nuclear power plant in Bihar

†*328. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the places in the country where nuclear power plants are situated and proposed to be established respectively: and

(b) whether Government has any plan to establish nuclear power plant in Bihar; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) At present, nuclear power plants are located at sites

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

at Tarapur in Maharashtra, Rawatbhata in Rajasthan, Kalpakkam and Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu, Narora in Uttar Pradesh, Kakrapar in Gujarat and Kaiga in Karnataka. Four reactors [KAPP 3 and 4 (2x700 MW) at Kakrapar, Gujarat; RAPP 7 and 8 (2x700MW) at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan, and the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) (500MW) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu] are at various stages of construction.

Administrative approval and Financial Sanctions have been accorded by the Government for setting up new nuclear power project at Gorakhpur in Haryana (units 1 and 2) and Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu (units 3 and 4)

In addition, the government has accorded 'in principle' approval for the sites at Jaitpur in Maharashtra, Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh, Chhaya Mithi Virdi in Gujarat, Mahi Banswara in Rajasthan, Chutka and Bhimpur in Madhya Pradesh, Haripur in West Bengal and existing sites at Kaiga in Karnataka, Kudankulam and Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu and Gorakhpur in Haryana for locating nuclear power in future.

(b) At present the Site Selection Committee (SSC) of the Department of Atomic Energy is evaluating the sites proposed by the Bihar State for locating a nuclear power plant.

Back-channel between India and Pakistan

*329. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of news reports of the Pakistan Ambassador to Washington DC saying that a back-channel has been established between India and Pakistan to carry forward discussions aimed at resolving outstanding issues between the two countries;

(b) if so, the special envoys nominated by the two sides; and

(c) whether the progress made on the back-channel in the period 2004-07 would constitute the starting point of this back-channel dialogue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):

(a) and (b) Government has seen media reports on reported remarks made by Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States to a think-tank, including his views of back channel talks and on India's terrorism concerns. Terrorism originating from Pakistani territory and territories under its control is India's core concern. Government is firmly resolved to take strong action to defeat this scourge, and to ensure the safety and security of all our citizens.