

(d) and (e) : The Khadi and Village Industries Institutions were facing difficulty in availing of the bank finance. In order to ensure flow of institutional finance to the KVI sector, Government of India has announced a scheme under which the banking system would provide Rs. 1,000 crores on consortium basis to the KVIC which would, in turn, lend it to the viable KVI units either directly or through State KVI Boards. The Central Government will guarantee the loans given by consortium of banks to KVIC. State Government will guarantee the bank loan given by KVIC to State KVI Boards. To the extent of guarantee offered by the State Governments, the Central Government guarantee would be covered by counter-guarantee.

Lokpal Bill

*49. SHRI PROMOTHES MUKHERJEE :

SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA :

will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is seriously considering a proposal to set up a Lokpal to probe corruption charges against Ministers and Bureaucrats;

(b) if so, whether the views of the various political leaders have been sought before setting up a Lokpal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the Lokpal is likely to be set up and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) :

(a) and (b) : Yes, Sir.

(c) Out of 49 Members of Parliament addressed in the matter relating to Lokpal Bill, 5 Members have responded till 27.7.95.

(d) Establishment of Lokpal is dependent on the response of Members of Parliament who have been addressed in the matter.

[Translation]

Funds For Population Project

*50. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :

will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some states have not utilised the funds provided for the population projects;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have issued directives to such States for utilising the said funds:

(c) the names of these States to whom directives have been issued and the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA) :

(a to (d) . In order to ensure implementation of the projects, sufficient funds are released by the Government of India to States where India Population Projects are being implemented. Monitoring of progress of projects and utilisation of funds as per Project objectives is done on a monthly basis at the Government of India. Communications at appropriate levels of the Government .Communications at appropriate levels of the State Government for all Projects are sent from time to time to speed up the progress of activities and utilisation of funds under the Projects.

[English]

Fuel Efficiency of Vehicles

*51. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :

will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any concerted efforts to bring about improvement in the fuel efficiency of vehicles viz. cars, scooters, trucks, buses, trains, airplanes and shipping;

(b) if so, the efficiency that has been achieved between 1973 and 1994;

(c) the quantum of saving in petrol/diesel and other fuel oils achieved; and

(d) the total value of such saving in money terms?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As reported by the Association of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, the improvement in fuel efficiency in 1994 as compared to 1973 has been 21% to 57% in the case of two/three wheelers, 18% to 35% in the case of cars and jeeps and 5% to 15% in the case of trucks and bus chassis.

(c) and (d) .The Automotive Research Association of India have estimated that the total savings in petrol/diesel during the period 1983-94 in respect of Automotive vehicles is 1815 million liters which in monetary terms is Rs. 1875 crores approximately.

[Translation]

Amar Nath Pilgrimage

*52. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :

will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan supporter terrorists organisations have threatened to stop the AMAR NATH pilgrimage;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER' OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) :

(a) and (b) :- The Harkat-ul-Ansar (HuA), a Pak sponsored militant outfit, has imposed a ban on the annual Amarnath Yatra. HuA has asked civil administrators, contractors, shopkeepers and labourers not to associate with the Yatra.

(c) :- The State Administration is making all arrangements for smooth conduct of the Yatra with the help of Security Forces. pilgrims will be escorted by Security Forces from the starting point. In addition to providing security, the Security Forces are also assisting the State Administration in providing medical facilities for Yatries, pitching of tents at different Camp locations etc. so that the Yatries do not face difficulties. Air lift facilities for carrying rations and other provisions at the high altitude camps enroute are also being arranged.

Atomic Reactors

*53. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL :

will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether all atomic reactors operating at present are safe;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of reactors out of them built up by USA;

(d) whether cracks have developed in such ten reactors a few days back; and

(e) if so, the safety measures taken by the Government in this regard? •

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER' OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) :

(a) and (b) All the operating nuclear power reactors in India are safe and fulfill the safety requirements of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) which stipulates conditions for the operation of these reactors.

(c) Of the nuclear power reactors in India, two reactors namely Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) Units 1 & 2 which are Boiling Water Reactors (BWRs), were built by a U.S. firm.

(d) and (e) . There have been press reports that cracks have developed in an internal section namely core shroud of some the Boiling Water Reactors (BWRs), abroad. It is planned to inspect the core shrouds of units 1 & 2 of TAPS during their forthcoming refuelling shut down to ascertain their health and also to plan corrective action, if required.