

environment of a country depends on various global, regional and internal factors. There have been some developments in recent past, both in international arena and in the sub-continent which have bearing on India's national security. The passage of Hank Brown amendment clearing the supply of arms etc. to Pakistan worth US \$370 million approximately has implications for the region. All measures required are being taken to defend the security and integrity of India.

2. The other important factors having bearing on India's security are rising fundamentalism in some closeby countries, export of terrorism and proxy war by Pakistan. The Government keeps a close watch on all the developments affecting India's security. Threat perceptions are continuously reviewed and appropriate steps taken to safeguard India's security and integrity. Within the available resources, the Government is systematically modernising the Armed Forces, providing them with state-of-the-art weapons and equipment. Simultaneously indigenous development and production of items needed by the forces is being encouraged.

[English]

Spread of Diseases

2522. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any study regarding the spread of various diseases due to total absence of cleaning operation of garbage and dirt from the rural areas;

(b) if so, the results thereof and the recommendations made in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Infectious diseases are known to occur due to unsanitary conditions, including collection of garbage and dirt. State Governments have been advised to revamp their Public health systems for epidemic control and take steps to improve the civic facilities and project infrastructure in keeping with public health requirements. Emphasis has also been placed on disease surveillance, undertaking preventing measures and establishment of early warning systems.

BHPC Power Projects

2523. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether three power projects submitted by the Bihar Hydel Power Corporation (BHPC) were sanctioned in January 1995 but the 10 per cent advance as per terms has not been sanctioned so far; and

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The 10% initial release against the Ministry's commitment towards Capital Subsidy for the Sandni, Lower Ghagri and Netarhat SHP projects in Bihar, amounting to Rs. 27.12 lakhs, was made in April, 1995.

[Translation]

Ordnance Factory

2524. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was proposal to set up an ordnance factory in Chatra district (Previously Hazaribagh district) in Bihar and land was also selected for this purpose but later on the said ordnance factory was set up somewhere else out of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for which the said factory could not be set up in Chatra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION & SUPPLIES) (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) : (a) to (c) There was a proposal about ten years back for a new factory to manufacture propellants; a site in Hazaribagh district was one of the alternatives proposed for it. On detailed examination of the proposal it was, however, concluded that no new factory for manufacture of propellants needed to be set up since the requirement could be met from the existing ordnance factories and the civil sector. The proposals to set up a new factory was, accordingly, dropped altogether.

[English]

Child Marriage

2525. SHRI K.M. MATHEW : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the social evil of child marriage has increased in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to curb this social evil;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to launch a Panchayati Raj level mechanism and setting up Monitoring Cells to enforce the Child Marriage Restraint Act effectively; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b) The information is not readily