

at present is the only source of heavy water in India, produces approximately 12 metric tons of heavy water per annum.

(c) No.

(d) A proposal to set up a heavy water plant with a capacity of 200 metric tons per annum is under the consideration of Government. This is necessary to sustain the nuclear power programme envisaged during the coming years.

Nuclear Power Stations

966. Shri P. K. Deo: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the type of the fuel which will be used in our three nuclear power stations at Tarapur, Rana Pratap Sagar and Kalpakam;

(b) whether those fuel materials are in plentiful supply in this country or are to be imported; and

(c) the cost of generation of electric unit in these three nuclear power stations?

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3194/64].

Collaboration with Foreign News Agencies

967. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision in regard to the collaboration of foreign news agencies other than Reuter, with Indian newspapers; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shrimati Indra Gandhi): (a) and (b). According to

the Government's decision taken in May, 1956 special communication facilities are granted to those foreign news agencies which have an arrangement with an Indian news agency for the distribution of their news services within the country. These technical facilities, which relate to the hiring of internal teleprinter circuits and reception of multiple address wireless press messages are granted only on the application of the Indian news agency concerned. Such facilities are not granted to a foreign news agency to distribute its news within the country direct to newspapers. In accordance with the above decision, the Press Trust of India is distributing the foreign news service of Reuters and Agence-France Presse and the United News of India that of Associated Press of America and the Deutsche Presse Agency News Service of Hamburg (West Germany).

Radioisotopes

968. Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Trombay complex of the Atomic Energy Commission has reached a stage where radioisotopes can be produced on a commercial scale;

(b) the details of these products and their commercial importance;

(c) whether the country's full needs are being met by now and whether supplies are being made to overseas buyers as well; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) to (d). The production of radioisotopes and labelled compounds at the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay, has steadily increased, and today over 250 different types of radio-active products, including many special preparations, are readily available for users. The Trombay Establishment is now in a position to meet fully the growing

demand for these radio-active products in India and also demands from foreign countries. Import is restricted to a few specialised labelled compounds and high specific active cobalt-60. About 8000 consignments of radioisotopes have been sold by the Trombay Establishment since 1958 for use in agriculture, industry, hospitals and medical and research institutions, both here and in other countries e.g. Afghanistan, Australia, Ceylon, France, Pakistan, South Korea and Thailand. An order has also been recently received from the International Atomic Energy Agency.

(b) Details of a large number of radioisotopes produced at Trombay, their specific activities, prices, etc., are given in a publication entitled "Radioactive Products", a copy of which is available in the library of the House. The importance of radioisotopes lies in their use in the fields of agriculture, biology, industry, medicine and research. So far as industry is concerned, radioisotopes and sources of radiation are used as tools of scientific investigation, detection, measurement and control. Expert services in the field of application of radioisotopes in industry are also provided by the Trombay Establishment. Radiography cameras with iridium-192 and cobalt-60 sources have been made available to check the quality of welds and castings. Successful experiments have been carried out using the radio-tracer technique in studying silt movement in various harbours. The results of these studies have saved the port authorities concerned considerable amounts of money in dredging operations.

Flying Accident near Agra

969. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a flying accident took place near Agra on the 30th July, 1964;

(b) if so, whether a court of enquiry has been ordered; and

(c) the result thereof?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Full facts will be known when the report of the Court of Inquiry is received.

Sardar Patel Memorial Lectures

970. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken as to who will deliver the Sardar Patel Memorial lectures this year;

(b) whether the invitation issued by the former Minister in this connection has been cancelled after it had been accepted; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shrimati Indra Gandhi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No formal invitation had been issued by the former Minister in this connection. The question of cancellation, therefore, does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Irrigation and Power Projects in Nepal

971. { **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the implementation of the irrigation and power projects by the Indian Aid Mission in Nepal;

(b) when the projects will be completed; and

(c) the sum allocated for these projects and the amount already spent?