

by the U.S. National Aeronautic and Space Administration of the United States, was now being received in India; and

(c) if so, the names of the Centres in India where such an information is received?

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes. It is proposed to set up a receiving unit at the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station to monitor regularly radio signals from the S-66 Ionospheric Beacon Satellite.

(b) and (c). Yes. The Centres receiving such information are the Astrophysical Laboratory, Kodaikanal, the Defence Electronics Research Laboratory, Hyderabad, the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad and the Radio Propagation Unit of the National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi.

Survey of India's Atomic Projects

486. **Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some British Press Correspondents were recently invited to survey India's Atomic Projects;

(b) whether any Indian Press correspondents had also been invited and if so, when; and

(c) the main purpose of these surveys by the foreign Press Correspondents?

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (c). In order to project India's achievements in the peaceful uses of atomic energy before an international public, a party of British Science Correspondents was invited to go round our Atomic Energy Installations and later write about them.

(b) A large number of Indian Correspondents were invited last year on

the occasion of the tenth year of the existence of the Department of Atomic Energy, and full coverage appeared in all important Indian papers.

Electricity from Atomic Energy

487. { **Shri Madhu Limaye:**
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the three projects for generating electricity from atomic energy which are at present under execution; and

(b) the time by which power generation would commence from these projects?

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). The required information is given below:

Tarapur Atomic Power Project

Work on this project is proceeding according to schedule. About 25,000 cubic yards of concrete for the sub-structure and super structure of the reactor and turbine buildings have been laid. Fabrication work on the steel vessels, which will contain the reactor and primary circuit, has also made considerable progress. The manufacturing activity in the vendors' shops on items of equipment, including the pressure vessels and turbine generators, is also proceeding according to schedule.

The contracted date for the full power operation of the Station is October 1968, but there is the possibility of some amount of power being generated several months ahead of this date.

Rajasthan Atomic Power Project

The Station will have two reactor units of 200 MWe each. The work on the first unit was sanctioned in

1964. The installation of the second unit has been authorised very recently, *subject to suitable arrangements for financing the foreign exchange component being made.* These arrangements have not yet been finalised.

Excavation for the foundation of the Reactor Building has been completed and concreting started on July 15, 1965. The excavation for the Turbine Building, Service Building and Pump House are in progress.

Purchase orders for the imported items of equipment valued at about 40 per cent of the total foreign exchange cost of the Project have been placed.

The first unit of the Station is expected to go into commercial operation during the later part of 1969 and the second unit before the end of the Fourth Plan, if suitable arrangements can be completed at an early date for financing the foreign exchange component.

Madras Atomic Power Project

The Station will have a generating capacity of 400 MWe consisting of 2 reactor units of 200 MWe each.

The setting up of the Station has been authorised very recently *subject to suitable financing arrangements for the foreign exchange component of the expenditure being made.* These financing arrangements have not yet been completed.

Preliminary work at the site is being taken in hand.

The Station is expected to be completed before the end of the Fourth Plan, if suitable financing arrangements are completed at an early date.

The second unit of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station and the two units of the Madras Atomic Power Station will each require approximately 200 tonnes of heavy water, which if imported will cost Rs. 15 crores. The Department has put up a proposal to build a heavy water plant

without foreign consultancy at an estimated cost of Rs. 21 crores with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 9 crores. This will save Rs. 6 crores foreign exchange on heavy water for these three reactors alone. The plant has however not yet been sanctioned by Government, and any further delay in its sanctioning will lead to delay in the coming into operation of the three power reactors. This proposal was put up by the Department to Government as far back as March 1965. Unless this heavy water is produced in India, all the three power stations will be under international safeguards.

Wage Board for Coffee and Rubber Plantations

488. Shri Sidheshwar Prasad: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wage Board for Coffee and Rubber Plantations has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are its recommendations; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

The Minister of Labour and Employment (Shri D. Sanjivayya): (a) The Wage Board for Coffee Plantations has recently submitted its report. The Rubber Plantations Wage Board is still at work.

(b) The recommendations of the Coffee Wage Board are under examination of the Government.

(c) Efforts are being made by the Rubber Plantations Wage Board to complete its work as early as possible.

Demarcation of Indo-Pak. Border

488-A. Shri Bagri: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the demarcation of the Indo-Pakistan border along Tripura and West Bengal;