

**U.N. Convention on Steps to Check
Torture**

1220. SHRI G.V. RAMA RAO :
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to U.N. Convention on steps to check torture appearing 'Newstime' 6 February, 1983 ;

(b) if so, details of this convention ; and

(c) whether India is a party to this convention and if so, whether any independent watchdog committee/organisation has been set up or proposed to ensure implementation of this humane convention ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment on December 10, 1984 without a vote.

(b) The text of the Convention is available in the Parliament Library.

(c) The Convention was opened for signature, on February 4, 1985. The question of India signing the Convention is under active consideration.

The Convention provides for the establishment ; after its entry into force, of a Committee against Torture whose functions will include consideration of periodic reports by States Parties on measures they have taken to give effect to their undertakings under the Convention. The Committee shall consist of ten experts of high moral standing and recognised competence in the field of human rights. They shall serve in the Committee in their personal capacity.

Racket in Lottery Business in India

1221. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALLICK :

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :

SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report in 'Statesman' dated February 20, 1985 regarding lottery business ;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry into this so-called racket ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Lotteries are of two types, i.e. those organised by the Central Government and State Governments and those organised by private individuals/institutions etc. The lotteries in the letter category are in the State List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and are authorised by the State Governments.

The report published in the Statesman of the 20th February, 1985 relates mainly to the private lotteries.

Certain guidelines were issued in June, 1984 for the conduct of State Lotteries and the States were requested to keep in view guidelines meant for the State Governments and the Union Territory Administration have, by and large, adhered to the guidelines in so far as State Lotteries concerned. They have again

been urged in February, 1985 to ensure strict adherence to the guidelines and to take other measures to make the entire mechanism fool-proof.

Indo-US Memorandum of Understanding on Technology Transfer

1222. SHRI G.G. SWELL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the Statement of the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence, Major General Kenneth D. Burns, before the House of 'Representatives' Sub-Committee on South Asia that he was heartened by the Indo-US memorandum of understanding on technology transfer ;

(b) the areas of technology that the memorandum of understanding covers ;

(c) whether a team from India is being sent to discuss details; and

(d) if so, when is the team leaving for Washington ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Memorandum of Understanding will cover all items on the U.S. Commodity Control List and the Munitions List, and all controlled technical data on such lists.

(c) and (d). An Indian delegation visited the United States of America from March 4—8, 1985 to discuss the implementing procedures of the Memorandum of Understanding. It has already returned.

Bang in Delhi

1223. SHRI G.G. SWELL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a bang that shook many houses Delhi including Parliament House

resembling in intensity the 1983 Rangoon bang that took away the lives of five South Korean visiting cabinet Ministers and many others, occurred in the afternoon of 2 February, 1985 ;

(b) whether the bang has been measured on the Richter scale ; and

(c) whether the epicentre and the cause thereof has been located and whether any damage took place ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Question does not arise.

Review of Silicon Project

1224. SHRI ANAND SINGH :

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the decision taken, if any, after review of the so called Silicon Project involving collaboration with an American firm; and

(b) if a decision in the matter has not yet been taken, at what stage the matter stands at present; and the time by which a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b). The Department of Electronics had finalised its technical collaboration agreement with M's Hemlock Semi-conductor Corporation, USA. The required import clearance from US