

Government had not been received till November, 1984; in the meanwhile some information was brought to the notice of the Department of Electronics. These inputs were studied in depth and the decision has now been taken that the Department of Electronics takes steps to acquire the process know-how, basic engineering and proprietary equipment from M/s Hemlock. Simultaneously, full support would be given to indigenous development efforts to establish the technology on a commercial basis and the investment decision in regard to the National Silicon Facility will be taken only after evaluating the results achieved by the production unit of 25 TPA being set up by the Mettur Chemicals.

#### Handing Over of Hijackers of Indian Airlines Planes to India

1225. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan President has refused to accept India's demand for the return of hijackers of Indian Airlines planes;

(b) whether this attitude of Pakistan is unhelpful in improving the relations between the two countries;

(c) if so, the measures Government propose to take for the return of the hijackers by the Pakistan Government;

(d) whether this has further strengthened the view that hijackers are being trained by Pakistan; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (e). Government have on several occasions requested the Government of Pakistan to either return the fourteen hijackers apprehended in the two hijacking incidents of September 1981 and July 1984, or at least put them on trial

in Pakistan. The trial of five hijackers of the first hijacking incident of September 1981 has begun in Lahore on 9th March, 1985.

Government remain committed to the development of cordial and cooperative relations with Pakistan and hope that Pakistan's actions would be consistent with their professed desire for friendship with India.

[*Translation*]

#### National Forest Policy

1226. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any National Forest Policy has been chalked out;

(b) whether the work relating to forest conservation is being carried out smoothly in the country through State Governments;

(c) whether Government have under consideration any proposal to entrust the forest development and conservation work to private sector on trial basis under the new policy keeping in view the environmental requirements;

(d) whether any provision is likely to be made in the new policy that tribals, who earn their livelihood by collecting forest produce in tribal and backward areas, may get reasonable price of the forest produce; and

(e) whether the laws to this effect prevalent in various States are likely to be reviewed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) Yes Sir, the National Forest Policy was enunciated in 1952.

(b) Forest Conservation is being carried out by the State Governments within the framework of the National

Forest Policy. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 requires prior approval of the Central Government for the diversion of any forest land to non-forest purposes.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). All relevant aspects will be taken into account while revising the policy.

[*English*]

**Statue of "Surya Dev"**

1227. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during British days the original stone Statue of "Surya Dev" of Konark temple Orissa was taken away from India and now kept in British Museum;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to bring back the statue for the glory of Indian culture; and

(c) steps proposed to be taken by Government to maintain the Konark temple and save it from erosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) According to researches it has not been established that the surya Dev image in the British Museum is from Konark Temple.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Structural, chemical, conservation and horticultural operations are in progress in the Sun Temple at Konark. In addition, it is proposed to bring 11.4 hectares of archaeological land under casuarina and cashewnut plantation to serve as wind breakers and prevent erosion of the surface of the temple by salt laden winds.

[*Translation*]

**Fuel for Tarapur Atomic Power Plant**

1228. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any alternative arrangement of fuel for Tarapur Atomic Power Plant has been made;

(b) whether any agreement concluded with the United States of America in regard to its operation has been completely repealed;

(c) if not, the points which are yet to be settled; and

(d) whether Government propose to move the international court for settlement of these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c). Pursuant to the Agreement concluded between India and France in November 1982, France, in lieu of the U.S.A., is supplying enriched uranium for the Tarapur Atomic Power Station, within the framework of the 1963 Cooperation Agreement.

(d) No, Sir.

**Utilisation of solar energy**

1229. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the progress made in regard to utilisation of solar energy in the country;

(b) whether Central Government propose to set-up a solar energy board with a view to encourage the utilisation of solar energy;

(c) if so, the composition of the Board and whether the Board will set-up its offices at State-level also; and