

Acquisition of Russian Tank

619. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS
SHRI K. RADHANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision about acquiring the latest version of Russian tank T-80-U and the up-dated Model (T-72S) of the T-72/MT tank presently in use in the Indian Army;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with its cost; and

(c) the progress made in the production of tanks at Avadi, and the steps proposed to be taken to augment indigenous production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) The full requirement of tanks for the Indian army is met from indigenous production at HVF (Avadi), which is fully geared for this purpose.

[Translation]

Inspection in Atomic Power Plants

620. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of fire in the Steam Turbine of the Narora Atomic Power Plant on March 31, 1993 all the Atomic Power are being closed for some time for inspection;

(b) if so, the time by this inspection the is likely to be completed;

(c) the place where such incidents took place so far;

(d) the precautionary measures taken to avoid recurrence of such incident in future; and

(e) the cost of production of electricity per unit of each atomic power plant in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVENSH CHATURVEDI): (a) As a matter of abundant caution, pressurised Heavy Water reactors having turbines which are similar design those of Narora are being sequentially shutdown for inspection.

(b) The first unit of Madras Atomic Power Station is scheduled for shutdown on 31.7.93 for about 3 to 4 weeks. Depending on its results, the second unit will be inspected. The first unit of the Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant which went critical only in 3.9.92 will be inspected during its planned maintenance outage. Both units of the Narora Station are presently in a shutdown state.

(c) Fire incidents related to turbine-generators have occurred in thermal stations at Kothagudam, Panki, Obra and Hardwaganj in India and in nuclear power plants at Salem Unit-2 in USA, Vandellós in Spain, Pickering Unit-2 in Canada and Manshan in Taiwan.

(d) The 5th stage blades of low Pressure Turbine at the Narora Madras and Kakrapar (Unit-1) Atomic Power Stations are proposed to be substituted gradually by those of the improved design, which will minimise chances of failure. For Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS) 1 & 2, improved design blades are to be installed before the startup of the Stations. As a matter of abundant caution, more intensive inspection of turbine blades is being planned in case of Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS)-1 & 2 and Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS)-1 till the same are modified. Steps are being taken to ensure of Madras Atomic Power station (MAPS)-1 & 2 and Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS)-1 till the same are modified. Steps are being taken to ensure that the turbine of the power Stations which are under construction at