

Other facilities such as medical facilities, educational facilities for children of freedom fighters etc. are given by most of the State Governments/UT Admns.

[English]

Indigenous Thorium and Uranium

6788. SHRI PRATAP BANU SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has developed indigenous know-how to process Uranium and Thorium as fuel for our Nuclear Power plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many units are using the indigenous fuel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE ((SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) & (c) All the pressurised heavy water power reactors, namely the units at Rajasthan Atomic Power Station and Kalpakkam use indigenously developed and produced uranium fuel. Even for the Tarapur Power Station, the fuel elements are fabricated in India from imported uranium hexafluoride. For the Fast Breeder Test Reactor, all the fuel including the thorium blanket has been produced indigenously.

Engine for the army tank

6789. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of wholly Indian tank for the armed forces has been prolonging year after year;

(b) if so, when was the project taken in hand and the causes for delay;

(c) whether the engine of the tank has finally been cleared for acceptance for the

new tank;

(d) if not, what are the deficiencies and by what time this will be completed; and

(e) whether the delay in production of Indian tank has forced us to resort to import ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) MBT Arjun for the Indian Armed Forces is under development by DRDO. Production will start only after the development and trials are complete.

(b) The project of development of MBT Arjun was taken up in 1974. The project is on schedule.

(c) The indigenous engine for MBT is still under development. The engine will be cleared for production only after the development and trials are completed satisfactorily.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) As the programme is on schedule the question of delay does not arise.

Extradition treaties

6790. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new extradition treaties signed during the course of last year and the names of those countries; and

(b) the salient features of these treaties ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K R. NARAYANAN) : (a) None, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.