

[Translation]**Production of Pig Iron without using Coal**

359. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are exploring the possibility of utilising some foreign technologies which can be helpful in the production of pig iron without using coal;

(b) if so, when the process of exploring such possibility was taken up and the time by which the same is likely to be completed; and

(c) the capital likely to be invested in the proposed project and the likely capacity thereof and the names of the places proposed to be selected for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir, There is no attempt to produce pig iron without using coal. However, efforts are being made to explore the possibility of phased development of certain foreign technologies with the potential and relevance to the Indian conditions for the production of liquid iron using non-coking coal.

(b) The process of exploring such possibilities started in 1978. The likely date of completion of this exploration cannot be anticipated at this stage.

(c) Since exploration is not yet complete, the likely investment and the likely location of the plant cannot be anticipated at this stage.

Review of Pay Scale and other facilities of Army Personnel

360. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :
SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal has been received from the Army Headquarters suggesting formation of a high ranking army officers committee directly responsible to the Council of Ministers to review the whole gamut of pay scale and facilities given to the Indian army personnel, if not whether any such proposal is under consideration; if so, the details thereof and the reasons for which this necessity arose;

(b) whether the Army Headquarters have prepared any memorandum for consideration of Fourth Pay Commission suggesting grant of appropriate increase in the pay scales and facilities for the army personnel which have not been given to them so far according to their expectations; and

(c) whether Government propose to evolve a definite criteria or formula on the basis of which the pay of the army personnel would be increasing vis-a-vis rise in prices ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) In the proposals submitted to the Ministry for the consideration of the Fourth Pay Commission, the Army Headquarters have suggested the setting up of Permanent Body consisting of men of eminence and retired Senior Service Officers, accountable to the Council of Ministers, to monitor, review and up-date the entitlements of the Service Officers and personnel within the laid down policy frame work.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The whole gamut of pay structure of the armed forces personnel, including the criteria or formula for determining their pay scales, is at present being considered by the Fourth Pay Commission, and the Government decision in this regard would be taken only on receipt of the report of the Pay Commission.

[English]**Steps to Equip Armed Forces with Nuclear war Heads**

361. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a report published in Hong Kong Military Journal "Comilli" stating that China is building up fairly large nuclear arsenal and already possesses nuclear artillery and mines keeping in view that China has refused to sign either the Nuclear Non-Proleferation Treaty or the Partial Test Ban Treaty;

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking so that India is not taken unaware as in 1962 Chinese attack;

(c) whether Government are aware that China has nuclear powered submarines equipped with a two stage solid fuel system and tactical nuclear war-heads in two to 20 kictan range and T-5 short range ballistic missiles (SRBM) at about 100 km. range;

(d) whether Government propose to equip our Armed Forces with nuclear war-heads and submarines, keeping in view military preparation of China and Pakistan; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken to defend our country ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) :
(a) and (b). Government keep a constant watch on all developments impinging on our security.

Reports published in Hongkong Military Journal stating about China's increasing nuclear capabilities have been noted by Government and appropriate measures, consistent with our policy, taken to ensure defence preparedness.

(c) : Government have seen some reports in this regard.

(d) and (e). India remains committed to the policy of peaceful uses of atomic-energy. However, our defence plans are

suitably updated to meet all emerging situations.

[Translation]

Manufacture of Atom Bomb by Pakistan

362. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan is engaged in manufacturing an atomic bomb; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government for the security of the country against the danger of the atom bomb ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) :

(a) Available information suggests that Pakistan is continuing her efforts to develop Uranium enrichment and nuclear fuel reprocessing capability which enable her to detonate a nuclear device.

(b) Government keep all such developments which have a bearing on our security under constant watch with a view to taking appropriate measures to ensure the security of the country.

[English]

Minerals in Manipur

363. SHRI MEIJNLUNG KAMSON : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to State :

(a) whether any concrete steps have been taken up for tapping mineral resources in Manipur;

(b) if so, the progress made so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT TATHE) :
(a) to (c). So far about 8 million tonnes