

Stopping of Production of Weapon Grade Uranium by Soviet Union

8100. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent announcement made by the Soviet President in London about Soviet intention to stop production of weapon-grade uranium and closing down of three nuclear reactors; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto in the context of prospects of World peace?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have welcomed President Gorbachev's announcement. A copy of the statement made by the official Spokesman on the 11th April, 1989 is given in the Statement below.

STATEMENT

Official Spokesman's Statement

Government welcomes President Gorbachev's announcement in London on the 7th April, 1989, of the decision of the Soviet Union to cease the production, from this year, of enriched weapon-grade uranium. This is a major advance towards halting the nuclear arms race. The qualitative significance of this decision goes much beyond the quantities involved.

We hope that the Soviet initiative would lead to all the nuclear weapon States agreeing to a complete out-off in the production of

fissionable material for weapons purposes. India has for long advocated the cessation of the production of weapon-grade fissionable material by all the nuclear weapon States, as constituting an important step towards halting the nuclear arms race. We have piloted several resolutions on the subject in the UN General Assembly and have included it as an Integral part of our three-phase Action Plan for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

It is a matter of particular satisfaction to us that in his speech in London the leader of one of the most important nuclear weapon States has reiterated the need to do away with the doctrine of nuclear deterrence and to completely eliminate nuclear weapons, the objectives that constitute the very core of India's disarmament policy, duly reflected in the Action Plan.

Setting up of Milk Processing Plant

8101. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN:
SHRI HET RAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

Whether National Dairy Development Board have spent over Rs. 400 crore on processing plant having capacities to handle only 200 lakh liters of milk per day while milk procurement is only around 75 lakh litres per day; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor stating the manner in which the capacities of the milk processing plants are proposed to be utilised to the maximum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND

COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b). An amount of Rs. 389.8 crores has been spent towards creating milk processing, conservation and marketing facilities under Operation Flood from the commencement of the Programme in 1970 until February, 1989. The following capacities are available under Operation Flood (January, 1989):—

Processing	—	128.9 llpd
Chilling	—	52.4 llpd
Metro Marketing	—	36.4 llpd
Milk powder production capacity	—	624.5 MT/day

(llpd = lakh litres per day).

Processing facilities are created to provide essentially to meet the peak season procurement, which is generally 50% more than the lean season procurement. The average capacity utilisation of milk plants in January, 1989 in the Operation Flood project area, was about 86% and in 34 milksheds, the utilisation exceeded the capacity.

Utilisation of Tetra Pack Machines

8102. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 20 per cent capacity of 18 Tetra pack Machines purchased by National Dairy Development Board in 1981 is being

presently utilised;

(b) if so, the reasons for low utilisation of the capacity of these machines;

(c) whether the Tetrabrick machines purchased on single tender basis in 1986-87 with the cost three times more than Tetra Pack machines are also lying unutilised; and

(d) if so, the reasons for buying these machines and their lying unutilised and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b). National Dairy Development Board received 16 Tetra Pack machines during 1980-82. The capacity utilisation of these machines during 1988-89 was about 13 per cent. Low utilisation has been mainly due to reduced availability of milk for aseptic packaging following drought conditions in the recent past.

(c) and (d). Of the 31 Tetra Brick machines purchased, 24 have been installed and 7 have been allotted. Tetra brick machines are technologically superior to Tetra Pack machines. Single tender purchase became necessary since only Tetrapack had quoted for such machines and at that point of time Tetrapack were the only internationally renowned manufacturing firm for aseptic packaging machines.

Being new to our country, aseptic packaging would naturally take time to establish itself.