

found necessary to provide strengthened couplings on coaches and locomotives for better reliability. Action is already in hand for fitting strengthened couplings to locomotives and coaches to avoid parting of the train on run. On present estimates, double-heading of K.K. Express and increasing the number of coaches in the train is likely to materialise sometime during early 1981.

#### **French offer to sell Nuclear Power Plants to China**

458. SHRI SHIV KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that French Government have offered to sell two nuclear power plants to China as reported in the *Indian Express* dated 18th October, 1980;

(b) if so, the capacity of each plant and the extent to which these plants will improve the nuclear power in China endangering Indian security; and

(c) whether Government have protested to the French Government against such a sale of plants; and

(d) if so, the reaction of French Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It is reported that two plants are to be set up of 900 MW capacity and the details are still under negotiation. These plants are stated to be meant for producing electricity.

(c) No, Sir. There is no international ban on such sales of nuclear power plants.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Death after Vasectomy Operation**

459. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that death has occurred of some persons after vasectomy operation performed during the "Family Planning Campaign";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in such cases any financial help is given to the family whose earning member has died after the operations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The Government of Haryana has reported that a person who underwent vasectomy operation on 25th September, 1980 during the Family Welfare Fortnight at Rohtak passed away on 11-10-80 due to Tetanus. The Government of Haryana have asked Chief Medical Officer, Rohtak to pay a sum of Rs. 5,000 to the family of the deceased.

(c) and (d). Ex-gratia financial assistance of Rs. 5,000 is paid to the bereaved family in case of death of a person due to Sterilisation operation (both vasectomy and tubectomy).

#### **Nuclear Test by Pakistan**

460. SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the Press report appearing in *Patriot* dated the 28th August, 1980 quoting 'Pravda' a Soviet daily regarding Pakistan's preparation for testing atomic bomb in the desert of Chagal and procurement of Mirage aircrafts which could carry nuclear weapons; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto?