

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the 1963 Indo-US agreement for cooperation concerning the civil uses of atomic energy, the US Government, in our view, have an obligation to permit the supply of spare parts for the Tarapur Atomic Power Station.

Renewal of Licence for Coir Industry, Ammandivilai

4748. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether renewal of licence for the biggest Coir factory at Ammandivilai in Kanya Kumari District, Tamil Nadu has not been issued; and

(b) the reasons for delay in issuing the renewal of registration and licence ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) and (b) Government have conveyed their decision to the Coir Board for renewal of registration of the factory at Ammandivilai.

Vijayanagar Steel Plant

4749. SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) at what stage is the progress of Vijayanagar Steel Project (Karnataka); and

(b) whether Government will give a schedule to complete the project early ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE) : (a) and (b) Studies are in progress to determine the most cost effective technology, product-mix etc. for this project; the schedule will be available only after these studies have been completed and examined.

Hungary Offers Equity Tie-up

4750. SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hungary has offered equity tie-up with India, as published in the "Business Standard" dated 13 July, 1983;

(b) if so, the names and status of the leader and other members of Indian delegation who visited Hungary in this connection, and outcome of discussions held with Hungarian counterparts;

(c) the details of the project for which Hungary has agreed to provide necessary assistance to India including technology and other know-how;

(d) what will be the expected production capacity of the plant/project, location thereof and the names of the countries to which the produce will be exported and on what terms; and

(e) whether assistance from other developed nations viz. USA, UK, France, West Germany etc was sought, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) : (a) to (e) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rich Marble Deposits in Jammu and Kashmir

4751. SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the State of Jammu and Kashmir is rich in marble deposits;

(b) whether any investigations have been made in the State and if so, the findings of these investigations;

(c) whether it is a fact that marble in varied colours and form has been discovered in abundant quantity in Handwara region of Kashmir valley; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to popularize and explore the market for this newly rich finding and also what steps are being envisaged so that these deposits of marble of special variety found in Kashmir are saved from any kind of exploitation by private bidders and contractors who are a deterrent to State exchequer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) : (a) to (c) The Directorate of Mines & Geology, Jammu and Kashmir Government has estimated about 14.5 million cubic meters of marble (semi crystalline limestone, fine to medium grained) of various shades and hues in Kupwara district, which includes Handwara region, in Kashmir. Detailed geological investigations will continued to confirm these reserves and to locate fresh ones.

(d) Grant of Mining Leases for exploitation of marble falls within the competence of the State Government. So far the State Government has sanctioned minining leases to 15 parties including private parties, but the largest block has sanctioned in favour of Jammu and Kashmir Minerals Limited, a State Government undertaking. Infrastructural facilities are being built up by the State Government for commercial exploitation of the deposits.

Foreigners Involved in Espionage Activities in Gangotri U.P.

4752. SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards the news which appeared in 'Blitz' dated 25 June, 1983 that

a large number of Foreigners from Western countries are involved in espionage activities in Gangotri, U.P.; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) and (b) Government have seen the said news item in the Blitz dated 25 June, 1983. No instance of foreigners engaging in antinational/espionage activities around Gangotri has come to notice of the Government.

Import of Machinery for Manufacturing Gillette Blade

4753. SHRI RAM SWARUP RAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has rejected the application made by the House of Poddars for the import of second hand Machinery for the manufacture of safety razor blades with particular reference to strip grinding machine including stropping machines;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government on representation made by the firm are reconsidering their earlier decision;

(c) whether the import of strip grinding machine including stropping machine other than in brand new condition will not affect the product; and

(d) if so, the reasons for Government's inclination to agree to the request of the firm ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A representation has been received against the decision, which is being examined.