

French Aid for Constructing Heavy Water Plant for India's Fast Breeder Reactor

3486. SHRI N. S. BISHT : Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether France has agreed to give aid for constructing a Heavy Water Plant for India's Fast Breeder Reactor for producing electricity cheaper than any other fuel ;

(b) if so, the location of the plant ; and

(c) the anticipated period of its completion.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) and (b). Heavy Water is not required for Fast Breeder Reactors but is required for the Candu type power reactors.

The design and supply of equipment of the heavy water plants being put up at Baroda and Tuticorin will be done by a French Consortium. The foreign Exchange required for the setting up of these two plants is being financed from French credits.

(c) The Heavy Water Plants at Baroda and Tuticorin are expected to be commissioned in 1973 and 1974/75 respectively.

New Fronts opened by Pak Troops in East Pakistan on International Boundary in Assam and West Bengal

3487. SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been invited to report in the *Times of India* dated the 30th May, 1971 saying that Pakistani troops in East Pakistan opened two new fronts on the international boundary in Assam Gopalpara District and 24 Parganas District of West Bengal ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. It will not be correct to say that any fronts have been opened on the international boundary by the Pakistan army operating in East Bengal ; their army have however been trespassing and intruding into our territory on several occasions and also opening fire on and shelling our territory from their positions in East Bengal. Two such incidents occurred on 29th May, 1971, one near the Goalpara (Assam) border area and the other close to the 24—Parganas (West Bengal) border. On both these occasions Pakistan army fired small arms in to and shelled our territory.

(b) The BSF have been adequately strengthened all along the border with East Bengal and have instructions to throw back any intruding army or force from across the border and also to reply effectively to any shelling or firing from the other side. Protests have been lodged in all such cases, demanding compensation for loss of life, property and injury to person, if any as a result of such incidents.

Loss of Life and Property Suffered by India from Border Skirmishes on Indo Pak Border in Rajasthan

3488. RAJMATA KRISHNA KUMARI JODHPUR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total loss of life and property suffered by India during the last three years ; year-wise, as a result of the border skirmishes on the Indo-Pak Border in Rajasthan ; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to put a stop to these border skirmishes with a view to instilling more confidence and sense of security among the people living in border areas in Rajasthan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Nil.

(b) The Border Security Force is vigilant on the border and will take strong action to repulse any intrusion or attack from across the border,