

(c) and (d). Yes, in regard to the case referred to in (a) above. The matter is under consideration.

Setting up of Apex Bodies in States for Technology

2492. SHRI K. BALATHANDAYUTHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have proposed to States to set up an apex body for science and Technology under the Chief Ministers; and

(b) if so, their composition and functions?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The States' Chief Ministers were requested on September 18, 1971 to set up, in their respective States, an apex body for scientific and technological policy under the Chief Minister on the lines of the National Committee on Science and Technology. As regards composition of the body, it is entirely within the competence of State Governments to constitute them in the manner they wish to. But the Central Government would hope to see on these bodies Scientists representing a wide spectrum of scientific disciplines of particular relevance to development plans within the State Sector like Medicine, Agriculture, Public Works, Irrigation as well as Universities, Technical Colleges. If any State Government so wishes, the Central Government would be glad to consider asking scientists and Engineers working in Central Govern-

ment Laboratories to cooperate fully with the work of these Committees either as members or consultants.

Underground Nuclear Tests for Nuclear Engineering

2493. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in recent months Russia, U. S. A. and France have undertaken a number of underground nuclear explosion tests;

(b) if so, the nature and explosive capacities of such nuclear tests;

(c) whether India also proposes to undertake underground nuclear tests for nuclear engineering purposes; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in the direction of developing capability for nuclear engineering in India?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b). A statement showing the underground nuclear tests undertaken by USSR and USA during the period June 1, 1971 to November 6, 1971 is attached. France has not conducted any underground test during this period.

(c) and (d). The Atomic Energy Commission is studying situations under which peaceful nuclear explosions carried out underground can be of economic benefit to India and keeps itself fully abreast of all developments in this field.