

Experimental Nuclear Explosion for peaceful purposes

410. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state the progress so far made in feasibility study and other preparations for the experimental nuclear explosion for peaceful purposes?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): The Atomic Energy Commission is constantly reviewing the progress in the technology of underground nuclear explosions both from the theoretical and experimental angles and also taking into account their potential economic benefits and possible environmental hazards.

Nuclear Power Propulsion for Marine Application

411. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre at Trombay has prepared the Project Report on nuclear propulsion for marine use; if so, the outlines thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to build nuclear powered ships and submarines in India in the near future; and

(c) if so, the outlines of the proposal?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) to (c). A project report has been prepared by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre outlining development work on nuclear propulsion for marine application. This is now undergoing further scrutiny.

Setting up of separate Satellite Fabrication Division of Indian Space Research Organisation at Bangalore

412. SHRI D. P. JADEJA: Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for setting up a separate Satellite Fabrication Division of Indian Space Research Organisation at Bangalore.

(b) whether the existing centre at Thumba cannot be developed for landing 250 kg. satellite; and

(c) the cost involved in setting up the launching station at Bangalore?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) No separate Satellite Fabrication Division is being set up at Bangalore. The construction of the Satellite for the Indo-Soviet Satellite Project designed at the Satellite Systems Division at Thumba is being undertaken at Bangalore, taking into account the time constraints, availability of space, a saline free atmosphere and the various test and other facilities available at Bangalore.

(b) No Sir; the Thumba Launching Station is equipped only for launching sounding rockets.

(c) There is no proposal to establish a launching station at Bangalore.

Ex-gratia Payment to former Rulers

413. SHRI HAMENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the *ex-gratia* payments of Rs. 10.73 crores as sanctioned by Parliament, have been made to the ex-Rulers;

(b) if so, the names of the recipients with the amount paid to each and the dates of payment; and

(c) if not, the likely date or dates on which the payments are to be made