

Cross Border Terrorism

171. SHR! MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cross border terrorism perpetrated by Pakistan in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in the country, came up for discussion during the visit of the US team led by Ms. Albright, the US Secretary of State in November, 1997;

(b) if so, in what precise context; and

(c) the outcome of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :

(a) and (b) Yes Sir, Government have been drawing the attention of international community, through bilateral and multilateral forums, to the issue of Pakistan sponsored terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India. This matter has been discussed on a number of occasions with the US authorities, including during the visit of US Secretary of State, Albright in November, 1997.

(c) The US side conveyed that they understand Indian's concerns and that the US takes a serious view of such terrorist activities. In this context, they referred to the designation of the Harkat- Ul Ansar as a terrorist organisation under US laws.

Nuclear Tests

172. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the reaction of the major powers like USA, China, Britain and Japan besides Pakistan and other Asian countries to the recent first three nuclear tests conducted by the Government in Rajasthan;

(b) the Government view to these reactions;

(c) whether any change in the country's relationship with the major powers is anticipated on this account; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) The reaction of USA, China, UK and Japan to India's recent underground nuclear tests has been critical; Pakistan's reaction has been stronger, "condemning" India's decision. Other Asian countries have reiterated their commitment to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and in some instances also expressed concern.

(b) Government have noted these reactions and have taken all steps necessary to explain abroad the rationale underlying the decision to authorise these tests which were aimed at reassuring the Indian people that Government would attach the highest priority to addressing India's security concerns.

(c) and (d) While the reaction of the international community has been along expected lines, Government does not anticipate any significant impact on the country's relationship with major power. However, Government intends to continue to actively engage various countries, both at the official as well as the non-official level, to highlight our unique record of restraint and our seriousness to actively engage in a constructive dialogue towards the objective of global nuclear disarmament.

Separate Fund for North East Region

173. SHRI K. S. RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to create a separate non-lapsable fund for the North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any guidelines have been formulated in this regard; and

(d) if so, whether all the States in North Eastern Region are likely to be covered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) The Union Government have decided to create a non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources for the development of all the seven North Eastern States and Sikkim for taking up specific programmes/projects/schemes in these States. The modalities of the Pool are to be worked out.

Atomic Power Plants

174. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up Atomic Power Plants during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal to set up an Atomic Power Plant in Orissa has been pending; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) and (b) Apart from completing and commissioning the ongoing projects with a total capacity of 880 MWe, comprising Kaiga Atomic Power Project Units-1&2 (2 x 220 MWe) and Rajasthan Atomic Power Project Units-3&4 (2 x 220 MWe) proposals for nuclear power development in the Ninth Five Year Plan include commencement of work on two units of the Tarapur Atomic Power Project (TAPP) Units- 3 & 4 (2 x 500