

Nuclear Technology Stolen by Pakistan

6077. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has stolen nuclear technology from the various countries;

(b) if so, whether the intelligence agencies have failed to check Pakistan to do so;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to make the intelligence agencies able for discouraging the anti-Indian powers in future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) Government is aware of Pakistan's nuclear programme and its attempts to clandestinely acquire nuclear technology from various Countries.

Developments in this regard have been brought to the attention of key countries as further evidence of Pakistan's clandestine pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability aimed primarily at India and also as a pointer to the failure of the international non-proliferation regime to check the illegal spread of nuclear technology.

Marketing of Petroleum Products

6078. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have permitted M/s Reliance Refineries Limited to market its petrol and high speed diesel etc. directly;

(b) if so, whether the Reliance are attempting to take over Government Undertakings HPC or IBP in regard to marketing their petroleum products; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The Government, in November, 1997, had decided to dismantle APM in the Petroleum Sector in phases starting from 1998-99. During the transition period, five products, viz., MS, HSD, SKO, LPG and ATF, will be controlled products. These five products from all private sector and joint venture refineries will be marketed during the transition period by the National Oil Companies only to the extent the same are required for domestic consumption. However, when the transition period is over the 2002-2003, all private sector/joint venture refineries with a minimum investment of Rs. 2,000

crores can market all their products including these five products.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Oil India Limited

6079. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Oil Operations hampered by scarcity of material" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated June 28, 1998 that apart from the problem of intimidation, sabotage and thefts, the North-East operations of Oil India Limited are also being hampered due to an acute scarcity of basic construction materials;

(b) if so, the details and facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to help Oil India Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Consequent upon the interim order of the Supreme Court dated 12.12.96 imposing ban/restriction on forest products, etc., the planned programmes including exploratory and development activities of Oil India Ltd. (OIL) in North-Eastern region were affected to a large extent due to scarcity of basic construction materials such as timber, sand, gravel, etc. The ongoing civil work relating to the construction of new buildings, roads, bridges, culverts as well as civil preparatory work of future drilling location including civil maintenance work are also affected. However, subsequent to the recent easing out of the above restrictions on removal of felled trees and partly opening of the sand and gravel quarries, the situation has improved. In the meantime, Oil India has also been looking into the possibility of using alternative methods for various road repair and site repair jobs.

(c) Since the local problems are being solved by the Oil India Ltd. with the help of local administration, the Company has not considered it necessary to approach the Central Government for assistance in this regard.

Growth of Chemical Industries

6080. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the growth of the Chemical Industries in the country is on the decline;