

(e) The other main benefits from Oceansat - 1 (IRS-P4) mission are :

- detection and monitoring of phytoplankton blooms and suspended sediment distribution in the coastal waters;
- inputs for providing sea state forecasting and understanding monsoon systems & cyclogenesis studies through retrieval of ocean parameters such as wind speed, sea surface temperature, atmospheric water vapour and cloud liquid water; and
- assessment of coastal and ocean primary productivity estimates for use in understanding the global carbon cycle and the ocean's role in climate.

Missile Programme

3. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to lay a statement showing :

(a) whether the Government are aware of reports that an American firm has helped Pakistan in its missile and nuclear proliferation programme;

(b) if so, whether this matter has been raised with the U.S. Administration; and

(c) if so, the response thereto?

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

(a) to (c) Government have seen a report in the media regarding construction of a new nuclear weapon testing facility in Pakistan with assistance by a American firm Holmes & Narver. The report, based on "private industry sources" reveals that Holmes & Narver are building a "Contained Firing Facility" based on "blue prints with a similar, but smaller, facility at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in California". The report adds that the construction is being supervised by scientists of Pakistan origin. The data produced in the Contained Firing Facility (CFF) is "used to refine the nuclear weapons, whether bombs or missile warheads".

Holmes & Narver, according to the report, "is a 65 year old corporation engaged in architectural, construction and programme management, environmental, operations and maintenance organisation". The corporation's clients include the US Department of Defence and Department of Energy.

India has continuously monitored trends, acquisitions and developments in nuclear and missile related activity by countries in our region. It has been India's assessment that Pakistan's pursuit of its clandestine nuclear weapons and missile programme continues unabated despite the declared efforts of many countries to control their (Pakistan's) illegitimate and clandestine efforts. These reports in the media only serve to highlight our contention that Pakistan's

efforts to acquire nuclear weapons are being aided by external sources.

India and the United States are engaged in high level discussions on matters of mutual interest with the objective of deepening bilateral relations. The issue of proliferation of nuclear materials and technologies in our region forms a part of this on-going dialogue.

Production of Milk

4. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any Centrally sponsored schemes to be implemented in the State of Kerala for the development of milk production during the year 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the name of districts in Kerala covered under this scheme; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Clearance of Projects

5. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals relating to the Department of Animal Husbandry, Madhya Pradesh pending with various departments of the Union Government since 1995 for clearance;

(b) the reasons for delay in clearance of these proposals; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House shortly.

[English]

Allocation for Hilly Areas of Assam

6. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the plan allocation made for hilly areas of Assam (Scheduled areas) during each of the last three years;