

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Government are aware of reports regarding shipments of sophisticated weapons material delivered by North Korea to Pakistan, including missile components for Pakistan's missile programme.

(c) and (d) India has consistently highlighted in multilateral fora as well as in bilateral discussions, the continuing outside support extended to Pakistan's missile programme despite the existence of multilateral export control regimes, unilateral declarations of restraint and supply restrictions in supplier countries. Government have made it clear that continuing supply of sophisticated missile technologies to Pakistan through clandestine means poses a threat to India's security and is not conducive to maintenance of peace and stability in the region.

(e) Does not arise.

Support Prices of Cotton

1634. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the production and the opening stock of cotton in the country during the year 1996-97; and

(b) the minimum support prices fixed for cotton for the years 1995-96 and 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The official estimate of cotton production during 1996-97 was 142.5 lakh bales whereas the opening stock as per the Cotton Advisory Board was 39.16 lakh bales.

(b) The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) fixed for the two basic varieties of cotton for 1995-96 and 1997-98 are given below :-

Year	Basic Variety	MSP fixed by the Government (Rs./Qtl)
1995-96	F-414/H-777	1150
	H-4	1350
1997-98	F-4114/H-777	1330
	H-4	1530

Likely Damage To Satellites

1635. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI MADAN PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any prior remedial measures to prevent the anticipated damage to our artificial satellites due to expected falling of large number of meteoroids on earth on November 18, 1998; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main risks that the artificial satellites faced from the meteoroids storm were possible physical, mechanical and electrical damages to the satellite resulting in direct mechanical cratering, plasma or electro-static discharges. In order to protect its five INSAT satellites (INSAT-1D, INSAT-2A, INSAT-2B, INSAT-2C and INSAT-2DT) and four IRS satellites (IRS-1B, IRS-1C, IRS-1D and IRS-P3), besides the scientific satellite (SROSS-C2), the Department of Space took the following measures:

- The Solar panels of the satellites were oriented in such a way as to present minimum surface area to the approaching meteoroids debris.
- IRS camera operations were avoided during the meteoroids storm.
- The operation of X-ray payload on IRS-P3 and the Gamma-ray instruments on board SRCSS-C2 satellite, which employ high voltage were suspended during the period.
- Only essential equipment were kept ON during the storm period.
- The Gyros on board INSAT were kept ON to closely monitor body movement rates to detect any meteoroid hits.
- The design engineers and scientists of various satellite subsystems were present at the spacecraft control centres (Master Control Facility at Hassan for INSAT satellites and ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network at Bangalore for IRS and SROSS satellites) during the expected storm period on the night of November 17, 1998 to guide corrective actions to be taken in case of any ISRO satellites being hit by meteoroid particles.
- All satellites were brought back to their normal operating conditions on the morning of November 18, 1998.

[Translation]

Administrative Laws

1636. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI A.C. JOS:

SHRI MADAN PATIL:

SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: