

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:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the commission headed by P.C. Jain set up by the Government to review administrative laws has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Commission; and

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to examine and implement the recommendations made by the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement of important recommendations of the Commission is enclosed.

(c) Copies of the report of the Commission have been sent to all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and Chief Secretaries of all State/Union Territory Governments in November, 1998 for the examination of the various recommendations contained therein and for devising suitable action plan for implementation of the recommendations. The Government have constituted a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Personnel) for monitoring the follow-up action of the recommendations contained in the report. The Committee will meet on regular basis and evolve suitable strategies for implementation of the various recommendations by all concerned.

Statement

Summary of Important Recommendations of The Commission

1. All the Ministries/Departments should compile upto date information about rules, regulations, orders and procedures under different Central Laws administered by them including manuals in respect of areas which are important from the point of view of the general public.

2. Expeditious amendments should be considered in respect of a critical list of about 109 laws including those regarding which action has been initiated.

3. There is a need also for unification and harmonisation of statutes, laws and regulation with reference to the perspective of domestic and foreign investors, trade and industry, consumers, builders, exporters and importers. In this process, the Government should simplify the language used in all regulations, rules and orders.

4. Specific proposals have been formulated on the regulatory frameworks relating to (1) Housing and Real Estate, (2) Company Law, (3) Banking, (4) Foreign Direct Investment, (5) Industry, (6) Consumer Affairs, (7) Health, (8) Environment, (9) Labour, (10) Income-Tax, (11) Excise and Customs, (12) Exim Policy and procedural issues, and (13) Power. In these recommendations, the effort has been

to keep in front the problems and needs of the user groups, apart from the administrative requirements of efficiency, coordination and economy.

5. Repeal of over 1300 Central Laws of different categories out of about 2500 Laws in force, as listed below:

- (i) 166 Central Acts (including 11 pre-Nationalisation Acts and 20 Validation Acts).
- (ii) 315 Amendment Acts.
- (iii) 11 British Statutes still in force.
- (iv) 17 War-time permanent Ordinances.
- (v) 114 Central Acts relating to state subjects.
- (vi) 700 Appropriation Acts (approximately) passed by Parliament.

The Commission has recommended their repeal on the ground that these laws have become either irrelevant or dysfunctional.

6. There is a need to study the entire complex of laws, regulations and procedures affecting the quality of life of the poor and disadvantaged sections of the society in a focussed manner.

7. The Commission has recommended expansion of the system of alternate disputes resolution and more effective utilisation of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act. The Commission has also recommended entrustment of pending cases of subordinate courts to the "Lok Adalats".

[English]

Use of Nuclear Energy

1637. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken initiatives in use of nuclear energy for non-electrical purposes in the sectors of heat generation and hydrogen production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Oustees of Talaiya Dam

1638. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether reasonable compensation has been paid to all oustees of Talaiya Dam:

(b) if not, the reasons therefor:

(c) whether employment has been given to those families whose land has been acquired for the project;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore; and