3071.30

63913.91

JULY 15, 1998

## **Nuclear Strike**

4248. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: SHRI K.S. RAO:

West Bengal

Total

359

15.

Written Answers

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pakistan planning nuclear strikes against India" appearing in the Statesman dated June 29, 1998;
  - (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government are aware of the mass destruction in the event of a nuclear 'first use' strike by Pakistan;

(d) if so, the cities and towns that are likely to be targetted by Pakistan; and

810.03

50204.65

to Questions

360

(e) the preventive measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Government has seen these media reports and noted the many inconsistencies contained in these report. Expectedly, such disclosures appear to serve the interests of those who wish to bring about greater international involvement in South Asian affairs, on one pretext or another. Such reports, proven or otherwise, vindicate steps taken by Government to create a secure

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deterrent against the use or threat of use of weapons of mass destruction against India.

(c) to (e) Government has closely monitored the acquisition of clandestine ballistic missile and nuclear weapons capability by Pakistan. It has also noted statements by Pakistani leader in this regard. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interests in accordance with it own threat perceptions.

## Minister's Visit to Asian

4249. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Minister of State for External Affairs visited five nation South East Asian countries during the month of June, 1998;
  - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names and number of leaders/Ministers/VIPs of the above said countries with whom she met during the visit, country-wise;
  - (d) the nature of discussion held with each of them;
  - (e) whether any agreement has been signed; and
  - (f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c) As part of the present exercise to explain the rationale underlying India's decision to conduct the nuclear tests and to address concerns expressed in certain countries, Government is actively engaging key inter locutors in various countries in a substantive dialogue. In this context, Smt. Vasundhara Raje, MOS (EA), visited Hanoi, Manila and Singapore from June 16—20, 1998. Smt. Vasundhara Raje called on President Estrada and met Foreign Minister Siazon in Manila, Ambassador Tommy Koh and Foreign Minister jayakumar in Singapore. In Hanoi, she held a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister (Foreign Minister) Nguyen Manh Cam.

(d) to (f) The visit ensured a greater understanding of India's rationale for undertaking the nuclear tests and presented a valuable opportunity to explain the various initiatives announced by Government in the wake of the tests. No agreement was singed during MOS's visit to these three ASEAN countries.

12.01 hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review by the Government on the working of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research

Mumbai for the year 1996-97.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
  - (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 1059/98]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, allahabad, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
  - (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Mehta research Institute of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, Allahabad, for the year 1996-97.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 1060/98]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tata memorial Centre, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
  - (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the