

[*Translation*]

Review of Sardar Sarovar Project

582. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has constituted any expert committee to review the construction of the Sardar Sarovar Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the review work is likely to be completed; and

(c) whether the Union Government was consulted by the World Bank in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir. An independent review of the implementation of the Sardar Sarovar Project has been initiated by the World Bank.

(b) and (c) The independent review is expected to focus on the environmental, rehabilitation and resettlement measures under implementation. The terms of reference for the independent review have not yet been received from the World Bank.

[*English*]

Elections to MCD and Metropolitan Council

583. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to fix a maximum period upto which the M.C.D. and Metropolitan Council of Delhi can be kept under supersession as recommended by the National Commission of Urbanisation in its report;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for not holding the elections to these bodies simultaneously with the elections to the Lok Sabha held recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) The National Commission on Urbanisation has made a number of recommendations on various aspects of Urbanisation. One of the recommendations of the Commission is that the period of supersession in respect of local bodies should not exceed six months, subject to one extension for a similar period. The Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 and the Delhi Administration Act, 1966 under which the Delhi Municipal Corporation and the Metropolitan Council of Delhi have been constituted do not provide for any maximum period of supersession and dissolution respectively. There is no proposal at present to amend these Acts in this regard.

US Equation of India with Pakistan on Nuclear Issue

584. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US House of Representatives has equated India with Pakistan by voting recently to stop US aid and military equipment sales to India if it fails to halt development of nuclear weapons; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) An amendment to this effect was passed by the US House of Representatives.

(b) Government have taken note of this development and have conveyed India's concern over this issue to the US Government. Our stand on the nuclear issue has been reiterated and it has been conveyed that attempts to equate India with Pakistan in this manner are misplaced. Such attempts