

Title: Need to take adequate safety measures by detailing expert team to monitor the fall out of nuclear blasts and to give special financial package to people of Pokharan of Jaisalmer district.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER): Sir, five nuclear tests have been carried out on 11th & 13th May, 1998 in Defence Field Ranges of Pokharan. I congratulate the scientists and engineers from Corps of Engineers of Army and Defence Personnel who have contributed for success of these tests.

I have visited the adjoining villages which were affected due to nuclear tests. I met the villagers of Khetolai, Chacha and Dholiyan. I have gone through the damages caused to their houses, reservoirs, cattle and the public in general. A number of Pucca houses have been badly damaged. The assessment was carried out by non-technical persons. The compensation offered is negligible and most inadequate.

There are some underground reservoirs to store water which have developed cracks and have been damaged beyond repairs. The private land owners of the area are not permitted to go to their fields adjoining Field Fire Ranges. The local people are very apprehensive and fearful about the fallout of nuclear blasts. Some of the people are complaining about eye burning and reduction in cow milk.

I request the Government of India to take the following action to alleviate their problems:-

(a) Adequate safety measures should be taken by detailing expert teams to monitor the fallout of nuclear blasts.

The hon. Prime Minister is not here. I have been there. But I went with him also.

MR. SPEAKER : Please read whatever is there in the text only.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, this will not go on record. Please understand the procedure. This is a matter under Rule 377.

(Interruptions)*

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : (b) The hon. Prime Minister should give special financial package to the people of Pokharan of Jaisalmer district for construction of civil and veterinary hospitals and water supply channel from Indira Gandhi Canal to Pokharan region.

* Not Recorded.