

to another and get money from other countries. What is the principle, I would like to know. In fact, some of the States are today providing more amounts for debt servicing than their expenditure on the plan. In the coming few years, the plan size will further reduce and the debt servicing will further go up. Looking to all these facts, what is the overall view of the Government of India, I would like to know from the Prime Minister.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Question pertains to only the OECF's Japan component and there are certain guidelines for that. The States are free to approach the international agencies. But this is all done in consultation with the Central Water Resources Ministry and all these proposals of any kind of assistance by any external agency are facilitated by the Central Ministry of Water Resources. There are set guidelines about it and the States are not free to approach without these guidelines.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the amount disbursed for Madhya Pradesh project out of the five Irrigation Projects and the time by which this project will be completed? The pace at which the work is going on this project shows that work will not be completed even by the year 2002. As it is we are in the middle of the year of 1998 and not much work has been done in this direction.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister the amount of funds released and the amount utilized for this project. My other question is what is the last date for completion of this project and how much amount will have to be paid on this loan as interest?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, financial assistance to the tune of yen 13,222 million has been received for Rajghat project of Madhya Pradesh under OECF. Agreement in this regard was signed on February, 25, 1997 and February 25, 2002 was set as target date for its completion. So far its progress is concerned, so far 1.7 per cent financial progress has been made.

[*English*]

The major components of the preliminary works are: Civil works in left bank canal, Datia carrier canal, Datya irrigation Canal and remodelling of the Bhandar canal.

[*Translation*]

Its preliminary work has already been taken up. The work on the project is going on according to the schedule.

So far interest is concerned, it will be paid at the rate of 2.3 per cent p.a. Repayment period is twenty years and the grace period is ten years.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir water from Kishanpur Pump Canal project, constructed with the help of foreign aid covering the three eastern districts of Kaushambi, Allahabad, Fatehpur in Uttar Pradesh is still not reaching the Railway and minor. Besides, I would also like to know the time by which the proposed Gurolli Saidpur Project of U.P. will be completed?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shailendra Kumar, this question relates to OECF assistance to irrigation projects.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : If it is not relevant at least I should be told the time by which the irrigation project of Uttar Pradesh will be completed? Whether any provision has been made in the current five year plan for the said project?

[*English*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : May I know from the hon Minister whether, in the current post-sanctions situation following the Pokharan nuclear blast II done by India, the OECF assistance is expected to continue as it was in the past?

Secondly, the Yen has seriously depreciated in its external value. I would like to know whether any study has been made as to how materially we are going to be affected even if the assistance continues, in the matter of implementing all those projects.

SHRI SOMPAL : The first part of the hon. Member's question has already been answered. So far as the second part is concerned, there is a fixed exchange ratio which is taken in such cases and this will continue to obtain as it is. So, there will be no impact of devaluation on these projects.

Pak Invitation for Talks

[*Translation*]

*304. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA ;
SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Pakistan has invited the Prime Minister of India for talks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(d) whether some countries have expressed their willingness to mediate between both the countries; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

[English]

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

(a) to (e) Prime Minister wrote to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on 14 June, 1998 reiteration India's commitment to fostering a peaceful and friendly relationship, and developing a stable structure of cooperation between India and Pakistan. In his letter, Prime Minister also conveyed to the Prime Minister of Pakistan that their presence in Colombo for the SAARC Summit would enable them to hold bilateral discussions on all issues of mutual interest, and also to decide on how to proceed further with the dialogue process. In his reply of 23 June, 1998, the Prime Minister of Pakistan agreed with Prime Minister's suggestion to hold bilateral discussions during the SAARC Summit in Colombo. This meeting would be in keeping with the tradition of such bilateral meetings between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan.

There is no place for any third party involvement of any nature whatsoever in India-Pakistan bilateral relations. This has been made known to the international community through official statements as well as interaction at political and diplomatic levels.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though we are initiating bilateral peaceful talks with Pakistan but Pakistan is firing on the border and creating a war like situation and also carrying on anti-India smear campaign in the newspapers. In spite of all that it is in the fitness of things to start bilateral talks for world peace. I want to know from the Prime Minister as well as this House wants to know from him whether India will accept a third party mediation in these talks as Pakistan is telling almost daily that they will not hold any talks without third party mediation. What is the clear cut policy of India in this regard?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : I have already stated that only bilateral talks will be held between India and Pakistan. There is no place for any third party mediation.

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second question is whether issue pertaining to occupied Kashmir will also be figured in these talks and whether these talks would be held under Shimla Agreement or not? Please make it clear.

[English].

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Sir, as far as this question is concerned, we are in the middle of the dialogue just now between the two countries. The Prime Ministers will be meeting at the SAARC Summit. This is a part of the dialogue and all these issues will figure. I think that we should wait till those talks begin.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madhavaro Scindia.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a matter within the Scindia *Parivar*.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to clarify that this may be within the Scindia *Parivar*, but certainly not within the *Sangh Parivar*.

Sir, every sovereign nation has a right to take adequate steps in the interest of its national security and in this spirit we have applauded the tremendous technological achievements of our scientists Dr. Abdul Kalam and Dr. Chindambaram in successfully completing Pokharan-II. But it is the post-Pokharan handling of the situation by the Government which seems to be extremely amateurish and a lot of jingoistic phraseology has been used by every senior Cabinet Ministers which has tended to create, sometimes, a very wrong impression, because the collective action of the Government must be to universally establish this conviction that India has the maturity, sobriety and the depth of thinking to be able to digest this awesome capability. It is a national issue. It should not become a pawn on the domestic political chess board. The Foreign Office has now launched a very belated effort and in this context, I must commend and appreciate the Herculean efforts put in by Shrimati Vasundhara Rajee at her level, her globe-trotting has been very effective at her level. So, in the larger nuclear context, I would like to know whether India would be prepared—specifically for the nuclear issue, to minimise the chances of a nuclear war, however remote we may think it may be to call for a Summit of the four Asian nuclear powers for a 'no first use' agreement limited only to the 'no first use' aspect on the lines that has been recommended by Dr. K. Subramaniam.

Secondly, since Pakistan has exploded its nuclear device, I think, all of us know, who live in the general milieu, that there is a sense of insecurity that is now pervading the citizens, may be of Pakistan but certainly of

India, because they feel that they have been drawn into the battle front and it is only a three-minute war into annihilation and oblivion. Therefore, in this context, I think, specially keeping in mind that during the Cold War—it is well known—that there have been very many near misses of accidental war, a command and control structure assumes very great importance. So, I would like to know from the Prime Minister—because his answers on this have been rather vague—whether the Government is seriously formulating and expeditiously implementing such a command and control procedure for the nuclear button as every responsible nuclear nation should and in the large context also whether this would feature as suggestions in the talks.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gwalior is my place of birth and the elected hon'ble Member of that constituency has raised a number of important points. I do not think that there is any delay in initiating diplomatic move. We have projected our case before other countries in a very forceful and logical manner. The countries, which belong to nuclear club do not want other countries to enter into it. Therefore, their opposition was quite natural. But when we explained our position before G-5 super powers, I am calling them super powers because they are equipped with nuclear weapons, their attitude changed. We have taken these steps in self defence and not for any aggression or war. We have definitely taken these steps to avoid war. Alongwith projecting our case we have also given some constructive suggestion. We have said that India will not conduct any more nuclear tests in future. We wish that Pakistan will reciprocate in the same manner. They had made declaration but later on made their stance confusion by using ifs and buts therein. The hon'ble member has suggested to summon a conference of some countries and pass a resolution of 'no first use' of nuclear bomb. India has already taken initiative in this regard. We have already declared that we will not first trigger the nuclear weapons. If Pakistan makes a similar declaration by accepting this view then it will further give a boost to our confidence building measures. We do hope that Pakistan will definitely co-operate with us in this regard. We will have detailed discussion on all the issues that may be raised in Colombo talks. We do not want war. We want to improve the relationship between India and Pakistan. This talk is being held to improve relations. I hope that the Colombo talk will bring tangible results.

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA : I want to know whether command and control structure is also being discussed?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This is quite an important point. Command and control structure is being given due attention. There hardly exists any scope for any accident. We are keeping a regular watch over it. I do believe that there will be satisfactory arrangement.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has also been mentioned in reply to the question asked by the hon'ble member and the Prime Minister has also given a public statement saying that India is ready to hold dialogue with Pakistan. Has any response come in from Pakistan side? We have steted and have read also about associating China as a third party in this dialogue. It is not acceptable to us. Nobody can accept this. We wish that India's relation with Pakistan and other neighbouring countries must improve. Prime Minister has also stated that we do not want war. Whether any date has been fixed for talks with Pakistan or we will remain tense or continue to entangle in the quagmire. ... (Interruptions)

Has any date been fixed for talks between both the Prime Ministers? We also want to know about the assignment on which the former Prime Minister Shri Indra Kumar Gujaral has been sent abroad.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the date for talks between India and Pakistan has been fixed. These talks will be initiated in Colombo. Efforts are being made so that these talks continue in future as well. There is a controversy going on for months together regarding the procedure to be adopted and the subjects to be included in it. I hope that this problem will be sorted out during Colombo summit. Shri Gujaral had been our former External Affairs Minister and was also the Prime Minister of the country.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : He is experienced as well.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Lalooji at present you are at the helm of affairs. You are unnecessarily taking his name.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I have referred him as an experienced person and not as a prospective one.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : They are making efforts in their own way. We welcome such efforts.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, about three years ago, this august House has passed a motion that the Pakistan occupied Kashmir is an integral part of India, but it is seen that in the same Pakistan occupied Kashmir, foreign mercenaries are being trained for the last 8 years. People from Jammu and Kashmir

are being taken and trained there and upto now lakhs of people have gone across the border from there and have come back. Not only this about 4 lakh people of Jammu and Kashmir had to leave their homes because of militancy. Thousands of people have been killed. Several women have been raped. The centre of all these activities is Pakistan occupied Kashmir. I would like to know from the hon'ble Prime Minister whether any effort would be made during talks scheduled to be held in Colombo to get the Pakistan occupied Kashmir vacated and to annexe it with India as it is an integral part of India.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker , Sir, it is correct that insurgents, after being trained in Pakistan occupied Kashmir infiltrate in large scale into our territory. Recently it is learnt from the nabbed terrorists that they didn't belong to Jammu and Kashmir, or that part of Laddakh which is in India. When the dialogue will be held in Colombo, this issue will be discussed in detail. In Colombo talks, Pakistan is stressing that priority may be given to Kashmir. I want to say that issue of infiltrators, terrorism, training of large number of militants and sending them equipped with arms into the Indian territory, all are serious issues, related to peace and security. All these issues should be discussed and these will be raised during the talks.

[English]

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it had appeared in the news that the hon. Prime Minister's emissary to the United States, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, had reportedly discussed with the U.S. authorities that India was prepared to have a dialogue on making the existing line of control as the international border.

I would like to now from the hon. Prime Minister whether such a proposal was actually made by the Prime Minister's emissary to the U.S. authorities and whether this type of an issue will be discussed in the meeting between the Ministers of India and Pakistan. What is the Government of India's stand on this?

It is because this type of news appearing in the media had really caused a lot of concern in the minds of people.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is good that this question has been asked I will take it up with question raised by Shri Chaman Lal Gupta.

The entire State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. The Parliament of India has passed a motion

in this regard. So far we haven't received any proposal regarding line of actual control.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : But Farooq Abdullah is saying that an agreement should be reacted about the line of actual control. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Mr. Speaker , Sir, through you I would like to put a very focused question to our Prime Minister regarding the 'no first use' offer that he had made. We know that this 'no first use' offer had been taken by Pakistan with great reservation and has not responded to it. Now we have to understand why they have reacted in that manner. The reason in Pakistan feels very insecure. They think that there is an imbalance in conventional warfare between the two countries. That is why, they have gone for this blast. Now they want to keep that option. Because of this—it is their feeling, not ours—they have this feeling that there will be an imbalance if there is a conventional war. So, they want to keep this nuclear option in their hands. That is why, they are very reserved about this 'no first use' pact. They have, I think, offered a 'no aggression' pact to us. I would like to ask the Prime Minister if he shall positively respond to them because that will also embrace the 'no first use' offer that we had made and it will also send a good signal to the other nations of the world about the peaceful intentions that we have regarding our nuclear power.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister of Pakistan while delivering his address to the UN General Assembly said that there should be non-aggression pact. But officially he has not sent any proposal or suggestion to us. It is wrong to think that Pakistan is suffering from the feeling of insecurity and thus he is not agreeing to the proposal of 'no first use'. It is our experience of 50 years, that we have always been the victim of aggression. One third of Jammu and Kashmir is in possession of Pakistan. The number of insurgent being infiltrated into Indian territory does not indicate that Pakistan feels itself insecure. Pakistan will have to change its policy and Pakistan should have no objection in accepting the proposal of 'no first use.'

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : I wanted to ask the same question which Shri Mukul Wasnik had asked. Thank you. *(Interruptions)*

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