

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these technical posts are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected.

Accumulation of Arms by Pakistan

2183. SHRI T.R. BAALU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. Government is planning to supply F-16 fighters to Pakistan;

(b) whether supply of F-16 fighters to Pakistan is likely to create imbalance in South Asia; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to counter this threat?

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

(a) Government had seen reports in the international media, during the month of May 1998, prior to the series of nuclear tests conducted by Pakistan, that the United States Government might be considering the possibility of supplying a consignment of F-16 fighters, for which payment had already been made, to Pakistan to dissuade it from conducting nuclear tests. However, following the nuclear tests by Pakistan, the United States Government has imposed sanctions against Pakistan and there have been no further reports about US plans to supply F-16 fighters to Pakistan. The Pressler Amendment, which bars the sale of these aircraft to Pakistan, remains in force.

(b) and (c) Government believe that the acquisition of sophisticated weapons by Pakistan, far beyond its legitimate requirements, is not conducive to peace and security in South Asia. Government have also made it clear that supply of such weapons to Pakistan poses a threat to India's security. Government have conveyed their views on this subject to the concerned countries. Government will take all necessary measures to counter the adverse effects on India's security caused by the acquisition of weapons by Pakistan, and will effectively safeguard India's national security interests in keeping with its assessment of developments in India's security environment.

Employment Opportunity

2184. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether more unemployed will join the labour force in the course of the next Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the employment opportunities likely to be generated by the 9th Five Year Plan; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to bridge the gap between the unemployed and the employment opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) The estimate of unemployment for a five year plan period is furnished generally in the Five Year Plan document. The Draft Ninth Five Year Plan, 1997-2002, approved at internal meetings of the Planning Commission is to be considered by the National Development Council (NDC). The Government has decided to review this Draft so as to suitably reflect the altered priorities, as enunciated in the National Agenda for Governance. The revised document will then be submitted through due process for consideration and approval of the National Development Council.

(d) The approach to the Ninth Plan as approved by the National Development Council envisages priority to productive employment which will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and under-employment.

[Translation]

Dams

2185. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of dams of varied capacity constructed by the Union Government in different states during the last three years;

(b) the details of such dams, State-wise and location-wise;

(c) whether Pancheswar Dam in Uttar Pradesh is also included therein;

(d) if so, the estimated cost of the said dam; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

New Varieties of Seeds

2186. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: