

FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) All the Indian Administrative Service Officers Indian Police Service Officers in service as on 1st May, 1998 except those who were on extension in service on that date, have been benefitted by the enhancement of the retirement age.

As per the details available with this Department, there were 4931 Indian Administrative Service Officers and 3092 Indian Police Service Officers who had not attained the age of superannuation on May 1, 1998.

[Translation]

Nuclear Tests

5152. SHRI VIJAY GOEL :
SHRI SURESH KURUP :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the politicians, Members of Parliament and diplomats of USA who have justified the nuclear tests conducted by India;

(b) the effect thereof on the USA Government;

(c) whether India is trying to make its stand clear by taking advantage of the opinion of these American supporters as part of its diplomacy; and

(d) the achievement made in this regard?

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

(a) Several members of the US Congress from both the Senate and the House of Representatives have expressed understanding of India's nuclear tests and have emphasized the need to maintain normal Indo-US relations in spite of the developments. These include amongst other, House Speaker Gingrich, Senator Mack, Senator Moynihan, Mr. Joseph Biden, Mr. Frank Pallone and others from the House of Representatives. Amongst other political figures who have expressed understanding are former President Jimmy Carter, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former National Security Adviser Breziznski.

(b) The reaction of the US Government has been very critical but subsequently, there has been greater understanding of India's position.

(c) and (d) Government is continuing its efforts to make its position better understood by our interlocutors. Government is in touch with all important countries. An intensive dialogue is currently in progress with the Government of the United States. Both India and the US have found this to be a positive and constructive dialogue.

AIBP in U.P.

5153. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned any fund to the Government of Uttar Pradesh Under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent another proposal to the Union Government for Central assistance; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 43.50 crores was released as Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for six irrigation projects of Uttar Pradesh during 1996-97 and Rs. 78.00 crores during 1997-98.

(c) and (d) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested CLA of Rs. 73.00 crores for their five irrigation projects already included under AIBP during 1998-99 against an allocation of Rs. 155.00 crores approved by the Planning Commission.

[English]

India Never Detonated Hydrogen Bomb

5154. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the report of speech by the Scientist Dr. Subba Rao regarding our nuclear tests published in 'Afternoon Despatch and Courier', Mumbai issue dated 24th June, 1998;

(b) if so, the main points made therein;

(c) the Government's reaction thereon; and

(d) the steps have taken by the Government to counter adverse publicity and publicise the true facts?

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

(a) and (b) Government have seen the report referred to. In it Dr. B.K. Subba Rao, Former Naval Officer, Nuclear Scientist and Supreme Court Lawyer, has claimed that the Indian Tests conducted in Pokhran on May 11 and 13 comprised only Low Yield Fission Devices and not a Thermonuclear Device (Hydrogen Bomb). Dr. Subba Rao