

12.48 hrs.

[Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

**(i) REPORTED DANGER FROM EXPLOSIVE DEVICE BURIED AT POKHARAN IN 1974 AFTER NUCLEAR TEST**

**DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh):** On the background of the controversy of setting up a Remote Sensing Nuclear Device on Nanda Devi on Himalayas and the Prime Minister's reply thereupon, several scientists of the BARC have sounded a warning of greater hazard and danger of explosive device buried in 1974 at Pokharan after the nuclear test consisting of 7 kg. of plutonium-239, the secrecy about this device and the dangers arising thereupon and the potential nuclear pollution is causing concern to scientists and technicians in the country and are matters of great public importance.

The *Times of India* dated 18th April, 1978 'New Delhi Edition' has quoted: "Meanwhile, an atomic energy expert told PTI about the plutonium buried in the Pokharan desert following the 1974 nuclear test is potentially a greater hazard than the one-kg. plutonium powerpack buried atop Nanda Devi. The rocky stones under Pokharan, however, offer better conditions for containment of plutonium than the fragile snow atop Nanda Devi. But while the Nanda Devi powerpack, which uses plutonium-238, is a potential hazard for only a few centuries, the plutonium-239 under Pokharan is a potential hazard for about two hundred thousand years.

In view of this it is clear now that India's involvement in the C.I.A. Capex-device in the Himalayas is without consultation with the BARC and the late Dr. Homi J. Bhabha is not known to have given his consent; nor was he consulted at all on the issue of the nuclear device on Nanda Devi.

In view of the Press criticisms, it is necessary for the Government to take

the Parliament and the people of this country in general, into confidence, with regard to both the nuclear power-packs placed at Nanda Devi, and Pokharan to regenerate confidence that the Government is taking the utmost care of all the resulting pollution dangers and hazards, arising from such devices.

I would, therefore, make a fervent request to the Government to lay on the Table of the House a White Paper on the entire episode of nuclear device, its history, the present position and the future safety measures taken by the Government in this respect.

**(ii) REPORTED INCIDENCE OF 'BRAIN FEVER' IN ' VIRULENT FORM IN TURUNELVELI DISTRICT OF TAMIL NADU**

**SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM (Tiruchendur):** Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, under rule 377 I wish to raise this very important matter:—

Sir, there are varing reports of the incidence of an unknown fever in a virulent form, particularly amongst children in Turunelveli District of Tamil Nadu.

It is reported that though many deaths have taken place during the last three or four months, no diagnosis of the cause of this disease has so far been made.

Sir, unless effective steps are taken to combat this disease on both the preventive and remedial fronts, we will be losing precious human lives. The possibility of this epidemic taking a heavier toll all over India is not also ruled out.

My request is this. The Government of India should immediately get in touch with the Government of Tamil Nadu. They should also send some experts from here to find out what kind of a disease is this.

Sir, if the attack is there, any child feels as if it in the death-bed. For three or four months they cannot move. I request them to look into the matter immediately, to take it up with