

to be understood.

As regards the other question, although strictly it does not arise out of this recruitment drive, I am glad to answer it. The 15-point programme was reviewed by the Prime Minister only two months ago. We have made substantial progress in recruiting minorities. It is monitored by my colleague Dr. Rajendra Kumari Bajpaiji. I am not saying that everything that needs to be done has been done. We are conscious of it. We are straining every nerve to ensure that minority representation is also increased.

### Launching of 'Agni'

\*85. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD†:  
SHRI KRISHNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of the Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile 'Agni' launched from Chandipur-on-sea recently;

(b) its results and other observations;

(c) what is its significance in the context of the country's defence preparedness; and

(d) whether any programme of further developing missile technology is being undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.C. PANT): (a) AGNI is a technology demonstrator system and is not a weapon. The AGNI vehicle flight tested on 22 May 89 had two propulsion stages using closed loop inertial guidance system with an on-board Computer system and a re-entry structure.

(b) The AGNI launch has achieved all the objectives set for it. The major technological break-through achieved are in the areas of multistage propulsion, closed loop inertial guidance and re-entry structures.

(c) The successful launch of a high accuracy system like AGNI has afforded the

country with the option to deliver conventional warheads with high precision at long ranges.

(d) AGNI is part of the Integrated Guided Missile Programme which is now being executed by DRDO.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: In reply to (a) they have said that "it is a technology demonstrator system and is not a weapon"

If it is so, does it have any civilian spin-offs and if it has, will you kindly define and tell us what are the civilian spin-offs?

SHRI K.C. PANT. I didn't follow the question. Kindly repeat it.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Does it have any application in other fields—the civilian spin offs and other things?

SHRI K.C. PANT: I cannot offhand say which part would have which spin off. But the technology involved is not only sophisticated, but it covers various areas. For instance telemetry, radio, Radar, Communication technology.

Guidance system involves a very sophisticated technology. Re-entry structure means resistance to high heats etc. at the point of re-entry. So, there is a computer which is the brain of this missile system. So, the on-board computer can be very useful. It would certainly have applications in other areas

So, there are various possibilities, I can straight away see. But I will not be able to spell out precisely where which will be applicable.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Before launching, there was a pressure from international forces that we should not use this AGNI Missile. Will that pressure work now to stop our work in this direction?

SHRI K.C. PANT: This point has been made very clear by the Prime Minister and by

me, when I had spoken earlier. There is no question of this country yielding to any pressure; and I would like to congratulate our scientists and engineers: the achievement of the Agni is all the more significant because it is an indigenous effort. We know for a fact that there is an attempt by some countries to limit the transfer of technology in this area outside a limited field. Seven countries have worked together, and tried to impose a regime on the others. But this is an indigenous effort, and we will certainly develop technology in this country as we think fit, and according to our resources and according to our priorities.

**SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL:** We have been successful in launch in Agni; but I think space launching vehicles programme is also linked with this, and we are experimenting the launching of various satellites earlier also, in space, and increasing the payload capacity of the launching vehicle. Is it linked with our programme of launching satellites in future from our own base? At present, we are doing the launching of INSAT-I and II from other countries. Is this programme also inter-linked with it; and to what extent we have achieved success—50 Kgs or 100 Kgs—and how much weight can we carry to outer space if we have to send satellite to outer space from our own base?

**SHRI K.C. PANT:** The two programmes are separate. That programme, the civilian programme is under the Department of Space. (*Interruptions*)

As I was saying.... (*Interruptions*)

The civilian and military space programmes are independent. One is under the Department of Space; and this is under the Department of Defence—D.R.D.O. So, the two are independent, and we are keeping them independent. So far as Agni missile's range and payload are concerned, the payload can be up to 1000 Kg. and the range can be up to 2,500 Kms.

**DR. KRIPASINDHU BHOI:** I want to

know this from the hon. Minister: the intermediate ballistic missile was tested at Chandipur. We can produce the medium range ballistic missile, the inter-continental missile and the Polar ballistic missile indigenously. At the same time, I would like to know whether, for testing all these things, the detailed geophysical aspect has been tested, and whether we can use this ballistic missile for peaceful purposes: because India is a country—not a country, but a sub-continent—having all the geophysical formulations. Can we use this for artificial rains in drought-affected areas; can we use this to avoid cyclones, as the geo-physicists say? Is this a fact, or not?

**SHRI K.C. PANT:** Once again I would like to clarify that the civilian space programme is different from the military programme. So, the aspects to which my hon. friend referred would be covered, if at all possible, by the civilian programme. Remote sensing covers certain areas which he mentioned and the weather-watch programmes is another important programme. Rain making, for instance, is something which does not need satellites but it is very expensive and so on. But those are matters which are not covered by this question. So, I would like my hon. friend to appreciate that any programme we have here should not be mixed up with the other one.

**SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:** Sir, I have been raising my hand from the beginning to put a question, but I have not been called so far. It is in my constituency.

[*Translation*]

**MR. SPEAKER:** Should we send one more to your constituency?

(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, if it cause excessive rains what will we do?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bairagiji, generally there is sufficient rainfall. However, what is

allotted, cannot be blotted.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: We are proud of our scientists who have proved themselves time and again that they are not less intelligent than any other scientist in any of the advanced countries and also for their responsibility in keeping up this country dependent on its own resources and technological knowledge. The hon. Minister has categorically mentioned that this Government has never conceded to any pressure from other Governments of other countries. But I wish to know from the hon. Minister what is the reaction of the Opposition parties in this country in this regard. Have they expressed any feelings or opinion in this regard opposing either the location or the experiment in regard to this Agni?

SHRI K.C. PANT: The Agni Missile was fired from the Interim Test Range. The Government has a plan to set up a National test Range of Baliapal. This was fired from Chandipur. We would have preferred to fire it from Baliapal, but an agitation has been long going on there which has been inspired by some Leaders of the Opposition. (*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Janata Dal.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Yes, some Janata Party leader which is now Janata Dal.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Why can't you mention names?

SHRI K.C. PANT: Certainly I can. One is Mr. Samarendra Kundu, for instance. Mr. Biju Patnaik issued a statement. So, I have tried to discuss this with Mr. Biju Patnaik and other leaders.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: Has he joined Congress(S) or Janata Dal?

SHRI K.C. PANT: Janata Dal. It is very

difficult to keep track of them. So, there has been and I believe there is still some kind of an agitation going on; and I think it has certainly aroused unnecessary fear in the area because of mis-information which has been spread. I would appeal to my hon. friend in that area to see that this mis-information goes. We have received excellent cooperation from the Inhabitants around the Interim Test Range including those who are living within the safety zone and who had to move out of this area, only for a few hours. In all we have spent over Rs. 61 lakhs for compensation and other facilities that we gave them. So, the people there seem to be quite happy. When I went there, I met some of them. And this must have a salutary effect also on the people living in Baliapal.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: I am one with our hon. Minister to congratulate our eminent scientists, especially of the DRDL in the Defence Ministry for testing successfully such a unique indigenous missile, for which I must congratulate our Prime Minister particularly because he has in spite of all opposition from the international sphere as well as from some of the political parties of our country, who have opposed from the beginning such tests and did not want us to produce such indigenous missiles in our country, encouraged the testing of the missiles. Besides, may I know whether it is a fact that when it was successfully tested on the 22nd May, some of the Opposition leaders openly gave a statement that it was actually not the Agni missile, but it was an imitation of that, and if so whether the Defence Ministry has issued any contradiction to it?

Also, may I know what was the cost involved in this Agni missile and whether we could reach the target of 2500 kilometres when it was tested and, whether it is a fact that it can also carry nuclear weapons? If not, when some of the opposition leaders were indulging in such type of publicity among the people to create some panic among them what was the action taken by the Government on that issue?

SHRI K.C. PANT: It is a fact that some

news items appeared both here and abroad that the Agni was not an entirely indigenous effort in the sense that we got help from West Germany as well as the United States and I think that there was a report also about something which an opposition member had said, but I am not at this moment sure of that. But I did see reports in foreign papers also. I was asked this question when I went abroad and I assured them that this was our own effort, it is our own effort, it is our own technology and we are proud of the work done by our scientists. Nothing can detract us from this achievement and the West German Government, I understand, has denied what has appeared in that section of Press which I referred to earlier. They have denied that West Germany has contributed for the development of the technology for Agni.

There was a news item which said that Dr. Kalam, the Director of DRDL who is leading the team which developed Agni had picked up his knowledge in this area in the United States, when he went there for a few months. It so happened that he went there for a few months 25 years ago! Since then rocket technology has made enormous advances and Dr. Kalam and his group have done remarkably good work in this area and I would like to convey the congratulations of the House of them.

On the cost question, the total expenditure sanctioned for this project is about Rs. 35 crores. The technology demonstrator Agni has costed about Rs. 3 crores.

#### STD facility in Rajasthan

\*90. SHRI VISHNU MODI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of places connected with STD facilities in Rajasthan State is far less as compared to other States keeping in view its population and area;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider connecting more places in Ra-

jasthan with STD facilities; and

(c) if so, the names of such places, and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

#### STATEMENT

(a) No, Sir. The following priorities are adopted for providing STD facility:

- (i) State capitals to Delhi;
- (ii) District Headquarters to respective State capitals;
- (iii) Telephone exchanges with a capacity of 1000 lines and above, as on 31.3.1985; and
- (iv) Other routes justified by traffic subject to feasibility.

In respect of Rajasthan the State capital Jaipur is already linked to Delhi on STD

Out of the total 27 District Headquarters in Rajasthan, 16 have been provided with STD facility. The remaining 11 District Headquarters are planned to be connected by March, 1990.

The status of STD facility in Rajasthan is comparatively better than many other States.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Banswara, Barmer, Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Churu, Dungarpur, Jalore, Jaisalmer, Jhalawar, Sawaimadhopur and Tonk are proposed to be provided with STD facility.

[Translation]

SHRI. VISHNU MODI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked the hon. Minister.