

pleased to state :

(a) whether the Pakistani troops have indulged in unprovoked firing at Indian positions along Jammu and Kashmir border recently causing tension in the region ;

(b) whether attempts have also been made by the Pakistani troops to encroach upon the Indian territory ; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the Indian borders against such firing by the Pakistani troops from across the border ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) There have been some cases of unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops on Indian positions along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. Such firing incidents are, however, not uncommon.

(b) There has been no such attempt recently.

(c) Our Armed Forces are on constant vigil to meet any threat to the security of the country.

Signal Bombs Near Tarapur Atomic Power Plant

*92. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that signal bombs were found near Tarapur Atomic Power Station ; and

(b) if so, what additional security measures have been taken for the safety of the plant ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) Some signal cartridges used by ships for signalling distress were found near the Tarapur Atomic Power Station. The Signal cartridges were not explosive.

(b) No additional security measures are wanted as a result of this beyond the strict security measures already in force.

UPSC Examination Centre at Varanasi

*93. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any request from Banaras Hindu University Students Union for opening of Union Public Service Commission's examination centre at Varanasi ; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question of opening a centre at Varanasi has been considered by the Union Public Service Commission. In view of the fact that there are already two centres in Uttar Pradesh at Allahabad and Lucknow and having regard to their proximity to the place and on overall Consideration, the Commission have decided not to open a centre at Varanasi.

Spending on Research and Development in Science and Technology

*94. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :
SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that spendings on Research and Development in the field of Science and Technology are pretty low ;

(b) if so, the factors responsible therefor ; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to bring the spendings on Research and Development at par with other developing countries of the world ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) No, Sir.