

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Under Secretary of State reiterated the position of the US Administration that US military arms and equipment were being supplied to Pakistan in view of the security threat to that country on account of presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan and also to modernise Pakistan's defence forces. With regard to Pakistan's nuclear programme, US Administration's position is that the US security assistance being provided to Pakistan was designed to strengthen that country's confidence in its security and thereby convince its leaders that the nuclear option was neither necessary nor in Pakistan's broader interest. The US Government has stated that it has made clear to Pakistan that lack of restraint in the nuclear area would affect negatively the programme of economic and military assistance which began in 1981.

(e) The two sides exchanged views on bilateral matters, regional issues pertaining to South Asia and international issues of mutual interest.

Refugees from Pakistan occupied Areas of J&K

3297. SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are a large number of refugees from Pakistan-occupied areas of J&K, who have not been given their claims so far; and

(b) if so, steps Government propose to take to settle their claims ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) No claims are being entertained from persons who came from Pakistan-occupied areas of Jammu and Kashmir and have now settled in J&K State for the properties left behind by them in Pakistan-occupied areas because the whole of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India and the areas

presently under occupation of Pakistan are only under illegal occupation.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Battery Vans

3298. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether two "Battery Vans" were operating in 1983-84 during Parliament Session which used to carry Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the reasons for discontinuing the operation of those Vans now;

(c) the time by which "Battery Vans" are likely to be made available in the market for commercial sale; and

(d) whether Battery rickshaws, cars and scooters have also been manufactured and whether they have been tested and if so, the commercial sale price thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The two experimental battery vans which were used for conveyance of Members of Parliament were found to be satisfactory for short distance operation. These were withdrawn temporarily in order to put them to extensive testing and field trials. This has been largely done and the two vans will be re-tored for Parliament Service soon.

(c) The experience gained from the trials so far indicate that indigenous traction batteries may hamper commercialisation of battery vans though from a technical angle the battery vans with indigenously developed components have

performed well. Utilisation of battery vans at places where fixed point to point running is involved like airports, postal deliveries, etc. offers good promise. Battery vans may become commercially available in the next 3-5 years.

(d) Five battery powered rickshaws (3-wheelers) were fabricated on experimental basis by Electromobile (India) Ltd., Bangalore, a joint sector undertaking of the Government of Karnataka. Though the initial performance of these rickshaws was satisfactory, they subsequently developed problems largely on account of inadequate performance of batteries. M/s Electromobile (India) Ltd, manufactured battery powered 2-wheelers but have discontinued production. M/s Electro Anil Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore manufactures 2-wheelers whose ex-factory price is Rs. 7650/—. This 2-wheeler has been tested by the Automotive Research Association of India, Poona and declared road worthy. Battery powered cars are presently not being commercially manufactured in the country.

Sterilisation of Lions at Bairanghatta

3299. SHRI R. M. BHOYE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether at Bairanghatta National Park, about 20 Kilometres away from Bangalore, an American lady doctor Nan Shaffer sterilized seven lions as reported in *Navbharat Times* (Bombay Edition) of 19 March, 1985; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) and (b) Dr. Nan Schaffer, a veterinary doctor from the Lincon Park Zoological Gardens, Chicago (U.S.A.), visited India in March 1985. During this period she travelled to Mysore and Bangalore. At the Bannerghatta Lion Safari Park near Bangalore she carried out vasectomy operations on four lions. The operations were

successful and all the four lions are doing well. The main objective of these operations is to control the unregulated growth of the population of hybrid African lions in the Lion Safari Park.

[English]

Number of Thermal Power Plants creating Pollution

3300. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State :

(a) the number of thermal plants based on coal which emit sulphur dioxide and fly ash functioning in the country;

(b) whether on account of pollution from such plants adverse health effects are created leading to lung cancer;

(c) whether at present emission control in coal based power stations in India is not satisfactory; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to prevent pollution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) There are 57 major coal fired thermal power stations in the country.

(b) There are no conclusive findings on the occurrence of lung cancer caused by the emissions from thermal plants.

(c) The emission control in old power stations is not satisfactory. However, new power plants are equipped with necessary emission control devices.

(d) Under the Acts for Prevention and Control of Water and Air Pollution, the existing as well as new units have been directed to instal necessary pollution control equipment.

[Translation]

Per Capita Income in the Country

3301. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :