

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) The criteria for selection of sites for establishing new atomic power plants are the need for power, the hydel potential, the availability of coal and the suitability of sites in the region. This also involves study of the site geology, general hydrology, water availability, environmental, health and safety factors like density of population, agriculture and live stock data, meteorological factors, seismic conditions, transportation problems, etc Policy aspects such as the need for balancing central investment in the different regions of the country are also kept in view.

(b) The uranium necessary for making the fuel is available for the projected power programmes.

Setting up of an Electronics Project in West Bengal

3317. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to set up an electronics project in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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), (b) and (c) Project in Electronics are planned and implemented by various Departments of the Government. The information is being collected from them and will be laid on the Table of the House.

News-Item captioned "Antarctic Treaty Conference"

3318. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Antarctic Treaty Conference" appeared in the *Statesman* (Delhi edition) dated 28 February 1985;

(b) if so, whether the Indian delegate or delegates participated in the international Antarctic Conference held in Rio De Janeiro to discuss the Antarctic future as well as the mineral wealth thereof;

(c) if so, the outcome of discussions;

(d) whether Government are aware that 55 delegates from 28 countries held a five-day meeting in Antarctica in January 1985 in personal capacity to discuss the Antarctic future; and

(e) if so, the outcome of their discussions ?

THE MINISTER 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 Sir.

(b) The meeting of the informal working group on Antarctic mineral resources was held in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, from 26.2.85 to 8.3.85. An Indian delegation attended this meeting.

(c) The meeting was inconclusive. Details of a legal regime for the exploration and development of mineral resources of Antarctica are still being negotiated by the Consultative Parties to the Treaty. Further meetings for this purpose are planned.

(d) and (e) A workshop on Antarctic Treaty system was held in Antarctica from 5th to 13th January 1985. India did not participate in the workshop.