

(a) whether feeling concerned about the slow progress of the country's nuclear programme, an expert committee has proposed the creation of an Atomic Power Authority with total responsibility for the atomic energy programme ;

(b) if so, whether the Department has accepted the Expert Committee's recommendation ;

(c) if so, by what time the same is likely to be appointed ; and

(d) if not, the main reasons therefor ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) Setting up of an Atomic Power Authority with total responsibilities for construction and operation of Nuclear Power Plants and Heavy Water Plants for Atomic Energy Programme is one of the recommendations of the Committee appointed for Technical Assessment of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station. The Proposal is being examined.

“Special Grant For Implementation of Central Law on Atmospheric Pollution in Kerala”

*208. SHRI SKARIAH THOMAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Kerala have demanded special grant for the implementation of the central law on atmospheric pollution ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the decision taken thereon ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Explosion of Time Bomb on the Platform of Gauhati Railway Station

*210 SHRI B.V. DESAI :
SHRI SANT KUMAR
MANDAL : -

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 14 persons died and 60 hurt when a time bomb exploded on the platform of Gauhati Railway Station on 7 November, 1983,

(b) if so, whether the enquiry report stated that this was the job of extremists who are operating in the country at present,

(c) if so, total loss suffered due to this blast,

(d) what security measures have been taken to check such blasts in future, and

(e) total number of such accidents and attacks on railways during the last 3 months ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) :

(a) According to the State Government of Assam, 17 persons died and 42 persons sustained injuries due to the explosion. Initially, 16 persons died on the spot but later on one person succumbed to his injuries at the Gauhati Medical College Hospital.

(b) According to the State Government, the explosion was indulged in by extremists elements.

(c) As a result of explosion, some of the shops in the vicinity of the place of occurrence were blown off and the asbestos roof of the platform shed was also damaged. The estimated financial loss to the Railways due to this blast is Rs. 6,000/—approximately.

(d) Steps have been taken to tighten security measures which include

joint checking of luggages of outgoing and incoming passengers by police and R.P.F., random luggage checking by the police on the platform, etc.

(e) Eight.

Unemployment in Sixth Plan

*212. SHRI P.M. SAYEED :

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of PLANNING pleased to state :

(a) whether 46.28 million persons will be in search of job at the end of Sixth Plan period ;

(b) whether there was an estimated backlog of 12 million unemployed persons in the country at the start of the Sixth Plan ;

(c) if so, whether efforts are being made by the Commission to advise Government to implement certain schemes for providing jobs so that gap is further reduced during the remaining period of the Sixth Plan period ; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

'THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (d) The estimate of unemployment in March, 1980 according to usual status for the age group 5+ was worked out at 12.02 million in the Sixth Plan Document. While there is no estimate of the likely total number of unemployed at the end of the Sixth Plan, the net addition to the labour force during 1980-85 was placed at 34.24 million persons in the Document. Thus the overall magnitude of employment to be generated during the Sixth Plan worked out to 46.26 million. The expected employment generation in the plan period is estimated at 32.44 million standard person years in the Mid-term Appraisal. However, the actual number of beneficiaries is expected to be

more since not every member of the labour force may be a full time worker during the entire year.

Besides the existing employment-oriented/beneficiary-oriented programmes, Government have recently introduced the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme and the Scheme for Providing Self-employment to Educated Unemployed Youth.

Price of Colour Television

*213. SHRI R. PRABHU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether excise duty has recently been reduced in respect of colour television sets ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether there has been any reduction in the price of the colour television sets on this account ;

(d) if not, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that the prices of T.V. sets in the market are substantially reduced ; and

(e) the extent of reduction of price in the colour T.V. sets affected by public sector undertakings ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The excise duty on Colour TV (CTV) receivers has been reduced to 15% (from 25% + 5% surcharge) on sets with a screen size upto 51 cm.

(c) to (e) One public sector unit, UP Electronics Corporation (UPTRON) has already announced release of its CTV sets in the market in early December at a customer price of around Rs. 5800/- in Delhi. However, exact extent of price reduction for CTV sets