

damage and to prevent any further damage to the ovens in the battery.

#### Explosion of Hydrogen Bomb by China

\*74. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently China exploded a Hydrogen bomb; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to counter the threat posed by it to India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) China carried out an atmospheric nuclear test on 27 June 1973.

(b) Government's policy on the manufacture of nuclear weapons has been explained in Parliament on several occasions. Government believe that the defence of our borders can be best ensured by adequate military preparedness based on conventional weapons.

#### British Refusal to Grant Amnesty to Earlier Immigrants under New Immigration Rules

\*75. SHRI BHOGEN德拉 JHA:

SHRI JOYIRMOY BOSU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the British Government have refused to declare a general amnesty for illegal immigrants who settled in Britain prior to the new Act on immigration came into force in January this year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government hope that the British authorities would apply the provisions of the Immigration Act, 1971, humanely and without undue human hardship to the large number of immigrants who have been living in the UK for many years as law-abiding and useful members of society.

#### Increase in Price of Cars Manufactured in India

\*76. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:

SHRI M. S. SIVASWAMY:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of cars manufactured in the country have recently been increased considerably; and

(b) if so, to what extent and the reasons for the increase?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI T. A. PAI) (a) and (b) The ex-factory retail selling price of the Premier President car has been increased by Rs. 223 and that of the Standard Gazel car by Rs. 127 with effect from 1st July, 1973. The increase in both cases is limited to increase in the purchase price of bought-out components and direct wages, which have to be allowed in the light of the judgment of the Supreme Court on car prices.

नेपाल की सीमा पर सामरिक दृष्टि में महत्वपूर्ण सबक ।

\*77. श्री बिरंजीव झा : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि .

(क) क्या चीन की नेपाल-तिब्बत सीमा के 70 किलोमीटर दक्षिण में बड़ नगर जमुला को जोड़ती हुई सामरिक दृष्टि में महत्वपूर्ण पहाड़ी सबक बनाने की कोई योजना है; और

(ख) यदि हा, तो इस पर भारत सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जगजीवन राम): (क) जी नहीं, श्रीमान् ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

**Payment of E.S.I. contribution by Factories**

\*78. SHRI PRABHODH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the factories are obliged to pay special contribution for Employees' State Insurance irrespective of the fact whether Employees' State Insurance facilities are available or not, and

(b) if so the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) (ON BEHALF OF MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION—SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) All factories coverable under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 were obliged to pay Employer's Special Contribution upto 30th June, 1973 under Chapter VA thereof. This Chapter has been withdrawn since 1st July, 1973 from which date, the employers in non-implemented areas have been relieved of this obligation, while employers in areas where the benefits under the Scheme are available pay contributions at the rates laid down in Schedule I to the Act.

(b) The Employees' State Insurance Scheme has been the first Scheme of its kind in the country. It was decided in the early stages of its implementation to extend it gradually to more and more geographical areas after gaining experience in the working of this social insurance scheme. The Scheme was first introduced in Delhi and Kanpur. Since the employers were required to pay about 1.5 per cent of the wages of the workers

towards their share of contribution, they represented that implementation of the Scheme on a geographical basis would place them at a competitive handicap in relation to employers of other factories in areas where the scheme was not implemented. The Act was, therefore, amended and the transitory provisions in Chapter VA were brought in to distribute the burden of employer's share of contribution on all the factories throughout India, which were coverable under the Act. The payment of Employer's Special Contribution was so regulated that those in the implemented areas were required to pay more than those in the non-implemented areas. With the expansion of the Scheme, in recent years and its extension to the large bulk of coverable establishments in the country, the position has changed and Government decided that Chapter VA should be withdrawn.

**Pakistan Response to Joint Indo-Bangladesh Offer**

\*79 SHRI NARENDRA SINGH SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the broad outline of the Pakistan's communication reiterating the proposal for an officials' meeting to clarify the Joint Indo-Bangladesh declaration.

(b) Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether any reply has been sent, and if so, the contents thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). In his letter of the 23rd of June, 1973, Mr. Aziz Ahmed stated that the officials' meeting will discuss not only the question of repatriation of Pakistan POWs and civilian internees but also the other issues mentioned in the joint Indo-Bangladesh Statement of the 17th of April, 1973.