

MR. SPEAKER: I know the next question is yours and it is very important. But what can I do? So many members rose to put supplementaries on the previous question.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: The proviso to rule 46 reads thus:

"Provided that a question not reached for oral answer may be answered after the end of the Question Hour with the permission of the Speaker if the Minister represents to the Speaker that the question is one of special public interest to which he desires to give a reply."

I hope you will grant me permission, Sir, to put it and the Minister also is prepared to answer the question.

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak for yourself but you are speaking for the Minister also:

Now, Short Notice Question.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Supply of Uranium by USA for Tarapur Atomic Power Station

S.N.Q. 17. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:
 SHRI SAUGATA ROY:
 DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
 SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:
 SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Government have recently agreed to resume supply of enriched uranium to Tarapur Atomic Power Station; and

(b) if so, under what conditions?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) and (b). The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, on June 28, 1977, directed the issuance of the pending export licence XSNM-845 authorising the shipment of enriched uranium fuel for the Tarapur Atomic Power Station. There is no pre-condition as such but

there is an understanding that discussions would be held between U.S.A and India on the larger question of nuclear proliferation.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, I am quoting an observation and I would like the hon. Prime Minister to say whether it is correct or not:

"Apart from various delay in approving contracted supplies of fuel for Tarapur, explanation at the lower level of President Carter's new nuclear policy leave little doubt that all efforts would be made to persuade India to open all its nuclear facilities to international inspection and to prevent it from re-processing spent fuel derived from whatever source."

Is the observation correct and is there a condition like that in the agreement between our government and the US Government?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: There is no such condition. If there is a condition, I will never agree to it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: What are the reasons why the US stopped supply of enriched uranium to India? It is a fact that the US is committed to supply nuclear fuel to the Tarapur reactor for its life time, but by raising the bogey of nuclear proliferation, pressure has been built up in that country against maintaining supplies to India. The US administration dilly-dallied over the previous consignment of nine tonnes for over a year and India had to spend 1 lakh dollars to transport the uranium by air at the last moment. Is it correct or not?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: It was held up for a year no doubt because of various objections raised. Those objections are now withdrawn and they have sent it already. And, we have not agreed to any condition.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: What about India having had to spend 1 lakh dollars or Rs. 8 lakhs?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: This is news to me; I do not know.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Is it a fact that since the peaceful explosions of 1974, the United States has been anxious to re-write the agreement for the supply of enriched uranium to our Tarapur atomic power station? Was our government sounded by the United States in the matter to the effect that it wishes to so re-write the agreement that peaceful explosions by our country are made impossible in future?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: It is true that the explosion that was made here for peaceful purposes—as it was claimed—has been misunderstood. And, therefore, it created all these difficulties. There is no question of any other explosion now for peaceful purposes. And this has been cleared in our talks. Therefore, this is not going to arise now.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: The Prime Minister had said that the U.S. is sending enriched uranium to this country without any pre-condition. At the same time it is said, in the last part of the statement, that there will be talks between India and the United States on the question of nuclear proliferation. I would like to know, in this context, whether it was not a fact that the U.S. was exerting a kind of pressure on our country to toe its line on nuclear non-proliferation; and otherwise to starve Tarapur of nuclear enriched uranium? And now, when they are offering nuclear uranium fuel, what is it that we should discuss with the U.S. on this basic policy of nuclear proliferation?

There is another matter. Are we in a position—I don't know; I would like the Prime Minister to answer—to try to utilize our own uranium deposits—may be not in the immediate future—but is the government planning with that perspective, to make use of our own uranium resources for the future?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Coming to the last question first, there are two

ways of using uranium: one is using uranium in the natural form, and another is using enriched uranium. The Tarapur plant is built for enriched uranium; and, therefore, there it has to be used. We cannot use natural uranium, there. If you want to do that, we will have to scrap the plant and build a new plant, which is not at all necessary.

Coming to the other question on nuclear proliferation, that question is important for the whole world; and we are interested in it as much. The difficulty was only about signing a treaty. We have not signed it. I said that as long as those who possess atomic weapons and go on doing the explosions do not give them up, we cannot sign a treaty like that, with those people. Therefore, there is no question; but we are interested in seeing that proliferation does not take place. We are interested, therefore, that these powerful countries also give up this policy; and it is on those lines that we are going to have talks.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: It beats me completely: Why should the Government of India recognize the *locus standi* of the Regulatory Commission? We have got a treaty between the U.S. and our country so far as this Tarapur project is concerned. The terms of the treaty are overriding. They are absolute. But yet we are recognising the status of the Regulatory Commission. Now the hon. Prime Minister was pleased to say that the Regulatory Commission is disposed favourably towards us. Why should the Government of India persuade itself to accepting the status of the Regulatory Commission under the treaty? Secondly, what has been the conclusive proof so far as the change in the attitude of the United States is concerned? Is it not the over-generous attitude of the Prime Minister, as revealed in his statement in May last, that he would be prepared for inspection by them of

any one of these plants in this country? That is what was reported in the paper.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I think it is only in his imagination. I never said it, and I will never agree to any inspection by anybody, until they allow me to inspect their plants. We are not going to allow it, and I have said that. The hon. Member seems to be drawing on his imagination, I am afraid. I have not made that statement. I do not know how he read this. I hope he will show it to me so that I could pull up the paper concerned how they could put a wrong thing in my mouth. There is no question of the Regulatory Commission being recognised by us. It is not for me to keep the Regulatory Commission or not to keep it. I have not signed it and I am not going to sign it.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: My question has been stopped in the middle.

MR. SPEAKER: He has answered it.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: I am very glad that the Prime Minister has clarified the position. But this is what appeared in the newspapers.

MR. SPEAKER: He has asked you to show it to him.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: The further question I was about to ask was how much supplies have been shipped by the United States Government so far?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Licence for 12 tonnes was issued on 29-6-77 and that is coming.

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA: The Prime Minister in the course of his reply just now made a very significant

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statement. He has stated that there is no question of any further peaceful explosion. Nuclear energy for peaceful purposes will always entail peaceful explosion. Now it looks as though the position is that there is a new commitment by the Government of India that they will not resort to peaceful explosion, even if it is necessary, because of international commitment.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: No such explosion is necessary, in my view. If the previous government had a different view, it is not my fault. They were wrong in saying so.

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR: Will the hon. Prime Minister be pleased to state whether he has come across a newspaper report that our supply of enriched uranium will be in two consignments and that while the first consignment will be sent by plane, the second consignment will be despatched only after the American inspection team has inspected the Tarapore plant?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I do not know from where he has got this information. I do not know it.

SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN: A very important question is being discussed on account of this Short Notice Question. We welcome the statement from the Prime Minister that no condition of inspection is accepted. We are very glad for it. It is also very good that he has accepted the position that we will not sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, because it is discriminatory. We are very glad because this is the accepted policy of the Government for long. Now he has expressed his personal view about the explosion or implosion for peaceful purposes. Are we going by his personal views in this matter, or are we guided by certain scientific and technological views and requirements in this matter? It is an accepted view, even in the world of

nuclear scientists, that there is something like peaceful explosion which is necessary for developmental purposes. It is an accepted proposition. Have we given it up for all time only to get certain things from the American Government? If that is so, we are afraid that possibly we are compromising a very great national interest in this matter, because the development of nuclear technology is very important. Therefore, I wish that even by implication the Prime Minister has not accepted this position. I would like to have a clarification on this point.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I would be very happy if my hon. friend clarifies his knowledge about atomic energy. (*Interruptions*)

I am talking only of scientists. I do not claim to be a scientist; nor can the hon. Member claim to be a scientist, I had taken science in my college days, but I have forgotten it, I do not remember it now.

MR. SPEAKER: It must have been long, long ago.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Even then, it is better. I had some scientific training. I wonder if he has it. That is why all the time shouting goes on.

SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN: The difficulty is about half-learning of science.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Half-learning according to him, but how is he qualified to say what constitutes learning of science? That is what he does not clarify. I do not want to enter into an argument.

I agree with him that I should not make a commitment for all future time. I cannot say that I know everything about the future or even everything about the present, but as far as I have understood the question, I have come to this conclusion that no

explosion is necessary for a peaceful purpose or, for use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. That is the conclusion I have reached. That is why I said there was no question of an explosion. But, if anything is necessary, we can always have it in consultation with other people. Nobody will object to it if it is necessary, if they are convinced. If I am convinced, I can convince them. If I require your help, I will have to convince you. Otherwise, nobody will help me.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Although we are short of enriched uranium, we have our Jaduguda uranium ore. I want to know from the hon. Prime Minister what steps have been taken to prepare enriched uranium from the nature ore of uranium that is available at Jaduguda.

Secondly, I want to know from the hon. Prime Minister whether there has been any kind of restriction from the supplier of enriched uranium that when it is used in Tarapur...

MR. SPEAKER: He has repeated that there is no condition at all. You are wasting the time of the House by asking the same question.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: The trouble with enriched uranium is that its by-product plutonium, is an explosive material. I want to know from him whether any restriction has been imposed on the use of uranium for the recovery of plutonium and the preservation of plutonium in our stockpile?

Explosion for peaceful purposes was made in Russia and U.S.A. Now they are using nuclear engineering for exploration of oil, exploration of mines, construction of dams, diversion of rivers etc. I have followed this process of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the last ten years and innumerable questions and discussions have been raised in this

House. I say that development of nuclear engineering in our country has got great potential. Is it not a fact that the Atomic Energy Commissioner is completely differing with this idea? They are of the opinion that it can be used for very fruitful developmental purposes in our country, for the exploration of oil, for the exploration of mines and also for diversification of rivers and construction of dams. That was the report of the Atomic Energy Commission.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I have said very clearly that no authority in the world can prevent us from doing what we want or if we think it is necessary to use atomic energy and nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Sir, I ask...

MR. SPEAKER: I suggest that some day we must have a meeting in the Central Hall so that you can speak on nuclear energy. It will be very useful and it will be a very learned lecture. Unfortunately, this is only a Question Hour.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I will finish in one sentence. I ask the hon. Prime Minister to explain this. According to the report and the decision of the Atomic Energy Commission, they have clearly said that peaceful nuclear engineering technology can be used for certain purposes. That was the firm opinion of the Atomic Energy Commission according to the report that was made available to us. Have they changed their opinion now?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I have replied that already. Whatever nuclear engineering is necessary for peaceful purposes, will be done.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: The Prime Minister's statement today is somewhat definite than the earlier one which he made some time ago, when he said that he did not know whether nuclear explosions were necessary for peaceful purposes. Now,

he said categorically that no nuclear explosions are necessary for peaceful purposes. (*Interruptions*) I stand corrected and we would be happy if that is ruled out. I would like the Prime Minister to answer this. Will he present a white paper or some document to this House so that this knowledge that is available to him, can also be made available to other Members of Parliament who could then at least revise their original stand that nuclear explosions are necessary for peaceful purposes?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I do not propose to do any such thing.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: In view of the fact that the working of Tarapur Atomic Power Station was considerably hampered because of lack of supply of enriched uranium, may I ask whether he has assured of himself that this supply will now be regular and adequate, and secondly, whether this was the point which also came up in his correspondence with President Carter when both have assumed power, one in America and the other happily in India?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Well, I hope, it will be regular now. But who can say what will happen in the future? That was certainly one of the items in the correspondence too.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: In view of the fact that there is slight confusion in the reply—I never question the bonafides of our hon. Prime Minister; may be there is a slight confusion in the use of words 'implosion' or 'explosion'—may I get a categorical assurance from the Prime Minister that according to scientific advice for the needs of the country, we will resort to any nuclear experiment—if he has any obsession about the word 'implosion' or 'explosion'—which is needed for the development of this country?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I do not propose to say anything beyond what I have stated.

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: May I know from the Prime Minister whether it is not a fact that the supply of uranium by the U.S. Government is not under the treaty entered into by India and U.S. and that one of the terms is that it is obligatory on the part of the U.S. Government to supply uranium regularly and, if so, what is the action that the Prime Minister is going to take in this matter?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: On what?

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Sushila Nayar.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: I want to know from the Prime Minister whether he is aware that the radiation from atomic explosions, whatever their purpose, peaceful or otherwise, constitutes very serious health hazard and the deleterious genetic effects can continue to operate for four to five generations. In view of this, I want to know whether any study has been made of the extent of radiation produced by the last atomic explosion and, if not, whether he will make it and make sure that health hazards are avoided before any further explosion is made.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Fortunately, there was no such radiation in the last explosion.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I want to know whether the Prime Minister can tell us if the restoration of democracy in this country helped to procure resumption of American supplies of this material and I also want to know whether the Prime Minister can tell us that within the reasonably foreseeable future we can develop independence of these supplies from abroad.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I do not want to analyse the causes of understanding. It is no use complicating these matters further. Therefore, I do not want to enter into this argument.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: What about the second part of my question

MR. SPEAKER: The second part is also answered.

श्री विजय कुमार सहोत्रा । मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब यह कहा गया कि अमेरिका से जो हमें मैटीरियल मिल रहा है, उसमें कोई शर्त नहीं है, और यह भी कहा गया है कि हम उस कमेटी को नहीं मानते हैं, तो प्राइम मिनिस्टर ने जो यह कहा है कि कोई भी अणु-विस्फोट करने से पहले हमें कन्विस करना पड़ता है, तो यह शर्त कहां से आ जाती है और किस को कन्विस करना पड़ता है ?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I have never said that. Why are these words attributed to me? If this misunderstanding takes place here, I do not know what will happen outside?

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Associations of Government Employees

*446. **SHRI CHATURBHUIJ:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to liberalise the rules relating to the formation of trade unions and associations by the Government employees; and

(b) what other effective channels for redressal of their grievances are proposed to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH):
(a) There is no restriction on the formation by Government employees of trade Unions or Service Associations as the case may be.

(b) In October, 1966, Government introduced a Scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration for Central Government Em-