

(c) The reactor at Kalpakkam will be a breeder type reactor, first of its kind in India and Asia, outside USSR.

(d) The reactor will use plutonium enriched fuel, but thorium purified from Indian mineral sands would also be used in the reactor.

(e) The project would provide first hand experience in fast breeder reactor technology and the utilisation of thorium. This is essential for India to develop large size atomic power stations to produce energy more inexpensively than at present.

Development of Handicrafts

*390. SHRI D. R. PARMAR : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have drawn up a programme for the development of handicrafts in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the special provisions made to encourage the artisan classes ;

(d) whether there is any provision for providing special facilities for training the young apprentices from artisan classes who are especially from scheduled castes and backward classes ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(d) and (e) : Programmes and the provisions indicated in reply against (b) and (c) include, *inter alia*, the training of the young apprentices from artisan classes belonging to different social strata without any distinction of caste and region. However artisan classes generally belong to weaker sections of society.

STATEMENT

In the Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74) a total outlay of Rs. 14.52 crores with Rs. 8 crores for the centre and Rs. 6.52 crores for States and Union Territories has been provided. The para highlighting the programmes of development in the handicrafts sector as given in the Planning Commission's Fourth Five Year Plan is reproduced below :—

“The programme of development for handicrafts will aim at improvement in the productivity of artisans through supply of improved appliances and introduction of new designs, quality control, promotion of organised production, preservation of skills, promotion of co-operatives and associations of craftsmen and expansion of exports and internal sales. Special efforts will be made for the development of those selected crafts which have an expanding demand in the export market. It is proposed to set up model centres for stimulating the growth of well organised units in which new designs and improved tools would be used to produce quality handicrafts. For preservation of skills, facilities will be provided for the training of young apprentices under master craftsmen. New emporia will be set up for expanding sales. The sales through public emporia are expected to increase from the present level of about Rs. 4 crores to Rs. 10 crores and the value of exports from about Rs. 55 crores to Rs. 73 crores by the end of the Fourth Plan.

Public emporia for handicrafts would be assisted to provide production finance against export orders. They will be encouraged and assisted to build adequate reserves for the purpose.”

The programmes relate to :

- (i) improvement in productivity of export artisans, increase in their earnings and improvement in their working conditions ;
- (ii) preservation of skill and ensuring smooth flow of new entrants in the handicrafts sector ;
- (iii) promotion of co-operatives ;
- (iv) expansion of exports and internal sales ;

- (v) improvement in organisation of production and quality of product ;
- (vi) promotion of handicrafts in rural areas ; and
- (vii) provision of fuller employment to the craftsmen etc. to create more employment opportunities for the unprovided people, especially in rural areas irrespective of caste and and creed.

American and Soviet Delegations' Visit to India

2324. SHRI BABURAO PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of American and Soviet delegations which visited India during the last three years with dates and purpose of their visits; and

(b) the cost of each delegation by way of hospitality, travelling and entertainment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b). The information is being collected.

Indo-Nepal Border Dispute

2325. SHRI BABURAO PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Nepal have refused to accept the "Sealy Line" and has demanded a regular Boundary Commission to determine the border in the entire Western Sector of the Indo-Nepalese frontier; and

(b) if so, when it will be formed and names of officials deputed for this work and proposed terms of reference?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Prime Minister's Visit to Indonesia

2326. SHRI P. C. ADICHAN:
SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister recently paid a visit to Indonesia;

(b) if so, the matters discussed by her during that visit with Indonesian Government representatives and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether feasibility and desirability of forming an Asian Economic Alliance on the pattern of European Common Market or otherwise and of joint Asian defence were discussed; if so, in what context and the result thereof; and

(d) whether any agreements have since been concluded for economic and technical cooperation and for mutual trade; if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister paid an official visit to Indonesia from 28 June, 1969 to 3 July, 1969.

(b) and (c). A copy of the Joint Communiqué indicating the matters discussed between the Prime Minister and the Indonesian leaders is placed on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See. No. LT—1547/69.*]

(d) No fresh agreements have so far been concluded. Some proposals are, however, under the consideration of the two Governments.

Policy Planning Division of External Affairs Ministry

2327. SHRI K. D. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: