

### Manufacturing of Atomic Bomb by Pakistan

\*34 SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA†:  
SHRI H.N.NANJE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan is using atomic power to manufacture atomic weapons with the assistance of some western countries instead of using it for peaceful developmental purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the precautionary measures taken by Government to protect the country's security;

(d) whether Government have held talks with Pakistan in this regard; and

(e) if so, when and the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b). Government have seen reports that Pakistan is manufacturing nuclear weapons and are aware that it has been clandestinely procuring technology, material and equipment from several countries for its weapons-oriented nuclear programme.

(c) Government keep under close watch all such developments and take all necessary measures to ensure the country's security.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Our concern on this issue has been conveyed to Pakistan on several occasions, most recently by the Prime Minister to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto during his visit to Islamabad in December 1988.

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of

State has expressed his deep concern over the matter just now. I want to know from the Government, through you, at what stage is Pakistan in the development of the nuclear bomb? Let the country know about it.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: This question has been raised several times. As per the reports in the Press and the statements of the ministers and officers of the Government of Pakistan, either Pakistan has already made the bomb or is about to make it in the near future.

[English]

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Has it come to the notice of the Government that Pakistan has not only nuclear weapons but it has perfected the delivery system recently and it has already successfully fired a rocket?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: We have seen reports about this. Recently, a statement was made by a very fairly senior official of the Pakistan Government in this regard. As the hon. Member has said, not only their programme of nuclear weapons is oriented in a particular way but their progress in other areas of defence, of launching certain missiles also is going on very rapidly and this is a source of concern to all of us.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIV PRASAD SAHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister, through you, towards Ranchi. Regarding the Jadugor mines in Chotta Nagpur area, I had raised a point during the zero-hour last year and I want to repeat the same now. Uranium worth crores of rupees is being smuggled out clandestinely, thereby posing a threat to the security of our country. I want to know once again as to what strong measures is the Government going to take to curb the smuggling of uranium from the Jadugora mines of Chaibasa district in Chotta-Nagpur to China and Pakistan?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question hour is over.