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Rajya Sabha Q&A on Specifics of Indian Nuclear Defense Policy

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Summary:

Transcripts of questions and answers between members of the Rajya Sabha and the Minister of the State in the Ministry of Defense, Shri L.N. Mishra, on whether the Defense Ministry will use nuclear weapons as part of their defense strategy and if so, which armaments will be used.

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by the Prime Ministers of both countries in November-December last year.

THIRD UNIT OF BHARAT ELECTRONICS

*650. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in respect of the starting of the third unit of the Bharat Electronics; and

(b) the location where this Unit is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHR. L. N. MISHRA): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble member is presumably referring to the proposed second unit of Bharat Electronics Ltd. The proposal is under examination and a final decision about its location will be taken soon.

USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IN DEFENCE STRATEGY

*654. SHRI R. P. SINHA :
SHRI KRISHAN KANT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to utilise nuclear energy in its defence strategy; and

(b) if so, upto what level of armaments will it be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L.N. MISHRA): (a) and (b) Government's policy on the question of development of nuclear weapons has been explained to the House on several occasions. Attention is also invited to supplementary questions and answers in the House on Starred Question No. 244 answered on the 31st July, 1969. (See below)

INDIA IN THE FIELD OF ATOMIC SCIENCES

*244. SHRI J. P. YADAV :
SHRI MAN SINGH VARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by Government to enable India to compete with other coun-

tries of the world in the field of atomic sciences;

(b) whether it is a fact that on account of the cost of manufacture of atomic bombs having been brought down the defence expenditure of the nuclear countries is considerably reduced and they are able to economise their resources on this account; and

(c) whether India propose to change her policy in view of the efficiency achieved by China and other countries in the manufacture of atomic bombs and missiles.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Over many years, the Government has fostered the development of atomic energy for the welfare of our people, creating the appropriate environment under the auspices of Atomic Energy Commission. As a result of our sustained and well directed efforts India occupies a significant position in the world in the varied uses of nuclear science for peaceful purposes.

(b) and (c) No, Madam.

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : I want to know from the Government whether its Defence Organisation has intimated it that the countries who have succeeded in manufacturing nuclear armaments have been able to bring down their defence expenditure and strengthen their security. May I also know in this connection whether the Government know the names of the countries other than the two great powers, who have achieved success in manufacturing atom bombs and developing their delivery system.

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : Madam, there are some countries which have got efficiency in atomic energy, in atomic weapons, but it is not a fact that nuclear weapons will be a substitute for the conventional weapons which are actually used for the purpose of war.

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request for your protection. We know that the Prime Minister has been misleading this House and the country on the Question of manufacture of atom bomb. She is present in the House and I want to know whether the Government is really sincere to guarantee national security. Our one enemy nation China possess atom bomb and also missiles capable of delivering the same. Our another enemy Pakistan is getting closer to Russia which is a great nuclear power.