

May 15, 1969

**Rajya Sabha Q&A on Indo-French talks regarding
nuclear collaboration.**

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Summary:

Transcript of questions and answers between members of the Rajya Sabha and the Minister of Atomic Energy, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, on the New Delhi talks with French Minister of Atomic and Space Research on the peaceful use of atomic energy.

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above the age of eighty years employed by the Atomic Energy Commission?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): One, namely Dr. D. N. Wadia, F.R.S. Dr. Wadia, who is a National Professor and a very distinguished Geologist, is associated with the Department as Geological Adviser in an honorary capacity.

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH KHAN ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN

852. **SARDAR D. K. JADHAV:** Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister in her ensuing proposed visit to Afghanistan intends to meet Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan there; and

(b) whether an invitation to Khan Sahib to visit India in the near future will be extended by her on behalf of the Government of India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) The programme of the Prime Minister's visit to Afghanistan is under consideration in consultation with the Afghan authorities. However, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan has already been invited to visit India and he has indicated that he would do so at a suitable opportunity.

EXPORT OF JUTE MILL MACHINERY TO PAKISTAN VIA HONG KONG OR SINGAPORE

853. **SHRI M. K. MOHTA:**
SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA:

Will the Minister of **FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in the 'Hindustan Times' of April

16, 1969, that certain jute mill machinery makers in the country are exporting loom parts to Pakistan via Hong Kong or Singapore, undermining the country's competitive position in the manufacture of carpet packing; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) and (b) Some Press Reports have appeared alleging that jute mill looms are being exported to Pakistan via Hongkong and Singapore. According to local investigations, there is no evidence to show that jute mill looms are being exported. However, further enquiries are being made in this regard.

INDO-FRENCH TALKS ON NUCLEAR COLLABORATION

854. **SHRI M. K. MOHTA:** Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks for Indo-French collaboration in nuclear field were held in New Delhi recently with the French Minister for Atomic and Space Research; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The talks were aimed at exploring ways and means of furthering collaboration between India and France in the field of peaceful use of atomic energy and space research. An agreement has been concluded with France under which our Atomic Energy Commission will prepare a complete design and project report on building a fast breeder reactor under its own responsibility, but with the help of the French authorities.