

**July 31, 1969**

**Rajya Sabha Q&A on the French Agreement to Help  
Build a Nuclear Reactor.**

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**Summary:**

Transcript of questions and answers between the members of the Rajya Sabha and the Minister of Atomic Energy, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, on the specifics of building a new nuclear reactor and French assistance.

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(a) whether the Government of India have negotiated with the Government of the U.S.A. for the import of cotton under P.L. 480 during the 1969-70 season (September 1969 to August 1970); and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (C HOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) and (b) Negotiations for the import of cotton under PL-480 to meet the cotton requirements for the cotton year 1969-70 have been taken up but not yet finalise 1.

COMMISSION TO PROMOTE INDO-AFGHAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

627. SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

SHRI RAJNARAIN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to establish a joint Commission to promote Indo-Afghan economic co-operation; and

(b) if so, the details of the work that the Commission will be asked to undertake?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Joint Indo-Afghan Commission has been set up at the Ministerial level to study and plan various projects for the mutual benefit of the two countries based on the co-ordination of the respective resources and capabilities of each country. The Commission will also examine all measures necessary to expand trade exchanges between India and Afghanistan.

GEN. KUMARAMANGALAM'S STATEMENT OF 1962 WAR

628. SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

SHRI RAJNARAIN :

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the interview given by the former Chief of Army Staff, Gen. P. P. Kumaramangalam which appeared in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 10th June, 1969 to the effect that the reverses in 1962 encounter with China were due to the mistakes at higher levels; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) In reply to the question what, in his opinion, really went wrong in 1962, General Kumaramangalam is reported to have indicated that it was difficult to know what went wrong really in 1962, but that most of the mistakes were made at higher levels and not at lower levels. The House will recall that the main conclusions of the Henderson Brooks Inquiry Report on the conduct of military operations in NEFA in 1962, were summarised in the Defence Minister's statement in the House on 2nd September 1963. The aspect mentioned by Gen. Kumaramangalam has already been dealt with in the statement.

FRENCH OFFER FOR A NUCLEAR REACTOR IN INDIA

629. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the French Government have agreed to help India to build a nuclear reactor and to train Indian engineers and technicians;

(b) if so, when will this work begin and when will it be completed; and

(c) whether any feasibility study has been made to select the place where this reactor is to be set up?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) 'The Commissariat a l' Energie Atomique of France is sharing its experience in the field of fast breeder reactor technology with the Government of India. A joint team of Indian and French engineers is now designing a reactor under the responsibility of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission.

(b) The design work commenced in May 1969 and is expected to be completed in 12 to 15 months time.

(c) Yes, Sir.

JEWELLERY EXPORT

630. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian jewellery is very popular in foreign countries;