

city in preparing new schemes of development to be included in the Annual Plan for 1979-80.

(b) These, as well as earlier schemes formulated for the Five Year Plan 1978-83, are being examined and will be implemented from year to year after inclusion in the Plan.]

Nuclear explosion at Pokhran in 1974

1728. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pokhran atomic explosion in 1974 was meant for peaceful purposes;

(b) if so, whether our nuclear scientists are now disengaged from this type of work and whether they are entrusted with some other kind of work; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what is the nature of that work and how does it affect our position as a member of the nuclear club?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) The peaceful nuclear experiment which was carried out in Pokhran in May 1974 was for peaceful purposes.

(b) No scientific posts were created for conducting the peaceful nuclear experiment and therefore the question of disengaging any scientist does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Number of political murders

1729. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a considerable increase in the

number of political murders in the country during the last six months;

(b) if so, what is the number of such murders in each State during that period; and

(c) what action Government have taken to check such murders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Support price for short staple Cotton

1730. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that short staple cotton producers of Gujarat are not being given price support to relieve them from acute economic crisis due to non-disposal of large quantities of their short-staple cotton;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the co-operative societies of Gujarat have sought Central Government's permission to export this cotton; and

(d) if so, whether the Central Government have agreed to permit the State Government to export the commodity; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b) As the present marketing prices of kapas are ruling much above the minimum support price, the question of undertaking price support purchases does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government have given permission to Gujarat State Co-operative Cotton Marketing Federation Ltd. Ahmedabad for export of one lakh bales of cotton of 1977-78 crop.