

August 17, 1978

Prime Minister, Morarji Desai's Statement on the Non-Proliferation Treaty

Citation:

"Prime Minister, Morarji Desai's Statement on the Non-Proliferation Treaty", August 17, 1978, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (ISDA), Rajya Sabha Q&A Documents <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/119768>

Summary:

Transcript of Prime Minister Shri Morarji R. Desai's speech to the Rajya Sabha on the reasoning behind India's refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in the United States

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY)

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

(b) whether the soft technology of the New Alchemists will be explored for a better model of development?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) The Department of Science and Technology has sponsored a research project on the utilisation of geothermal energy, Installation of Cold Storage Pilot Plant using the geothermal energy of the hot springs at Manikaran in Himachal Pradesh is in progress. A project for design and development of a 1 KW Vertical Axis Wind Mill for pumping and for electricity generation is also in progress. In the area of tidal energy utilisation, so far no R&D project has been sponsored.

(b) New technologies, when developed to the stage of large scale commercial application, are taken into account in planning developmental programmes.

Vacant posts in the Doordarshan

1872. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of sanctioned posts lying vacant in the Doordarshan at present; and

(b) whether a comprehensive review of the service conditions of employees in the Doordarshan is proposed to be undertaken to improve the quality of staff and programming?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI LAL K. ADVANI): (a) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House

(b) Efforts are made continuously to review the service conditions, programming etc. with a view to improve the quality of staff and programming.

[1873. and 1874 (Transferred to the 23rd August, 1978)].

Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty

1875. SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government propose to lay on the Table of the House his statement on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty made in U.S.A. during his recent visit to that country?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) The relevant extract from my statement of June 9, 1978 at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament relating to the Non-Proliferation Treaty is placed on the Table of the House.

RELEVANT EXTRACT FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON JUNE 9, 1978 AT THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON DISARMAMENT RELATING TO NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

"In this context I should like to refer to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, of which much has been said in this hall and outside. India is among those who have not signed this Treaty. There has been considerable misunderstanding of our motives. To remove these I should like to declare that we yield to none in our commitment to comprehensive disarmament. We are the only country which has pledged not to manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons even if the rest of the world did so. I solemnly reiterate that pledge before this august Assembly. In fact, we have gone further and abjured nuclear explosions even for peaceful purposes. We ask from others no more than the self-restraint we impose upon ourselves. But our objection to the Treaty is because it is so patently discriminatory. It makes an invidious distinction between countries having nuclear weaponry and those devoted to the pursuit of nuclear research and technology entirely for peaceful purposes. Paradoxically, the Treaty

gives the former a monopoly of power and confers on them freedom for commercial exploitation of nuclear know-how, while on the latter it places restrictions which may impede peaceful development of nuclear science. Along with the partial test-ban Treaty, the non-proliferation Treaty has placed the nuclear military Powers in a position which enable them to continue with the utilization of nuclear energy for military purposes while telling others: "Thus far and no further". Despite protestations of peace and despite realization of the dangers of nuclear warfare, the super-Powers between them have conducted 254 nuclear tests during the last eight years. The weapons now with the super-Powers are deadlier and larger in numbers. The Non-Proliferation Treaty has thus failed to arrest the growth of nuclear armaments as anticipated, either qualitatively or quantitatively."

Radio-activity in the edible salt prepared from sea water

1876. SHRI GOVINDRAO RAMCHANDRA MHAISEKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press reports about the edible salt prepared from sea water in Bombay going radio active in minute degrees; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) Edible salt is prepared by refining the solar evaporated crude salt. This is, therefore, radioactive because of the presence of naturally occurring radioactive potassium in it. The radioactivity observed is less than 1/10,000 of the maximum permissible limit.

(b) Government has been keeping a close watch on the radioactivity content of the solar evaporated crude

salt for the last 20 years and there is no cause for concern in this regard.

Victimisation of the Officers on the H.A.L.

1877. SHRI L. R. NAIK:
SHRI YOGENDRA
MAKWANA:
SHRI IBRAHIM
KALANIYA:
SHRI H. R. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI KRISHNA NAND
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of (DEFENCE) be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the management of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore, is victimising the office bearers of the Hindustan Aeronautics Officers' Association and that the General Secretary of the Association has been deprived of promotion for the third time during a period of two years on the 12th-13th April, 1978, and that the Vice-President of the Association is being harassed in other ways;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the Hindustan Aeronautics Officers' Association, in this behalf; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and whether Government have ordered an enquiry into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) to (c) Hindustan Aeronautics Officers' Association Bangalore, has forwarded to Government a Memorandum alleging *inter-alia*, victimisation and harassment of office bearers and members of the Association by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., management.

The management of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. is not victimising or harassing the officers, as alleged.