

[Translation]

Mig-21 Bis Aircraft

*896. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to modernise the Mig-21 Bis aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the amount allocated for the purpose during 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). There is a proposal for upgradation of Mig-21 BIS aircraft with a view to uprate its operational capabilities.

(c) and (d). The probable expenditure on the project would be known only after proposals are obtained from vendors and price negotiations are carried out.

[English]

Employment Potential in Small Scale Sector

*897. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VAADE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Scale Industries Sector has immense potential to generate employment and to reduce regional disparities and economic backwardness;

(b) the steps taken to protect and develop small scale units in the wake of new economic policy;

(c) whether a conference of State Industry Ministers was held in April 1993 to discuss various issues pertaining to small scale sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the outcome of the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps to protect and develop small scale units relate to:

- (1) Reservation of 836 items for exclusive manufacture in this sector.
- (2) Reservation of items for purchase from this sector.
- (3) Price preference in purchase from the small scale sector.
- (4) Enhancement in the investment limit of plant and machinery in respect of tiny units from Rupees two lakhs to Rupees five lakhs.
- (5) Inclusion of business and industry related services as tiny units.
- (6) Modification in definition of women enterprises, simplification of rules and procedures regarding registration, disbanding of certain committees which existed earlier.
- (7) Enactment of an Act on the Interest on delayed payments to Small scale and Ancillary Industrial Undertakings, 1992, to expedite timely recoveries of SSI dues.
- (8) Equity participation by other Industrial

Undertakings being permitted in SSI Units upto 24%, to enable infusion of technology, capital managerial expertise and link-up with marketing network of bigger units.

(9) Exemption of SSI turn-over from excise duty completely upto Rs. 30 lakh and partially between Rs. 30 lakhs and Rs. 75 lakhs.

(10) Provision of adequate credit from banks.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant

*898. DR. KRUPASINDHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of units of Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant commissioned so far;

(b) the time by which the last unit is expected to go critical; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the completion of this power plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESHCHATURVEDI): (a) The first unit of the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project achieved criticality in September, 1992 and was synchronised to the grid in November, 1992 and is set to go commercial shortly.

(b) The second unit at Kakrapar is scheduled to achieve criticality in December, 1993.

(c) Monthly and quarterly monitoring of

project activities and equipment delivery, phase wise commissioning of different systems, and resequencing/parallelising of erection and commissioning activities are the major taken to expedite completion of the project.

National Wastelands Development Projects in Andhra Pradesh

*899. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of progress of the National Waste land Development Projects, Cuddapah;

(b) the time by which the project is likely to be completed;

(c) the names of other Wasteland Development Projects in Andhra Pradesh pending with the Government; and

(d) the present state of progress and the likely date of completion of each of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAM SINGH): (a) and (b). No proposal titled 'National Wastelands Development Projects, Cuddapah' has been received by the National Wastelands Development Board.

(c) and (d). The list of projects for development of non-forest wastelands in Andhra Pradesh pending at various stages for sanction is at Statement-I and II. The duration of these wasteland development projects and their completion will vary from three to five years depending upon the area coverage and infrastructural facilities available with the project implementing agencies.