

[English]

Incentives for Tiny Industrial Sector

*552. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is finalising a package of incentives for the tiny industrial sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the views of various small scale industries organisations and State Governments have been obtained before finalising the package of incentives;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) SHRIM. ARUNACHALAM: (a) to (e). Details of the package for the tiny industrial sector are being finalised in consultation with the concerned ministries/Departments and also by taking into account the suggestions received from various organisations.

Respond Project

*553. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the activities undertaken in different States/Universities by the Indian Space Research Organisation under the "Respond Project" so far; and

(b) the activities undertaken or proposed to be undertaken in Universities/colleges/laboratories of Orissa under the Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI B. JIVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Under the

Sponsored Research Programme (RESPOND), Department of Space (DOS)/ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been providing financial assistance to research projects related to Space Science, Space applications and Space technology at various universities and academic institutions in the country. Since 1975-76 about 250 projects have been funded involving a budget of about Rs. 9.00 crores until 1992-93.

Since, the Space research projects are very specialised in nature, funding is done after a careful review by specialists at ISRO/DOS centre and also specialists in the concerned field from academic institutions. The criteria for the assessment of these projects is based on the technical content, budgetary and other special requirements of the project, time schedules, etc.

The various projects funded so far under RESPOND are in the following areas:

- i) *Space Science*: Studies related to Astrophysical plasma, cosmic evolution, cometary dust and plasma processes, solar radiation and its interaction with earth's magnetosphere, ionospheric phenomena including generation of Spread-F and Plasma irregularities, middle atmospheric processes involving mechanisms of interactive phenomena between radiative, dynamical, chemical and electro-dynamical characteristics have been undertaken. Meteorological phenomena particularly using satellite observations, earth's near environment including atmospheric pollution have been studied.
- ii) *Space Application*: Science of remote sensing & interpretation of satellite imageries, utilisation of Indian Remote Sensing Satellite data for studies of large number of parameters including those related to agriculture hydrology, snow cover, geomorphology, geology, forestry,