

[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,

etc., have been studied in details. Satellite communications involving propagation experiments and development of subsystems and components have been conducted.

- iii) *Space Technology*: Studies related to launch vehicle technology including studies of special materials and chemicals and propellants, propulsion systems including liquid propellants, reliability of launch vehicle design, design of launch complex and launch pads, local area network, guidance and control software, etc., have been undertaken.

So far, about 80 universities from various states of the country, besides the Indian Institutes of Technology at Madras, Bombay, Kharagpur, Kanpur and Delhi and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and other research laboratories under Central and State governments have participated in the RESPOND programme.

(b) Under the RESPOND Programme, following activities have been undertaken in Orissa. (i) Studies on assessment of Phytoplankton primary productivity by Remote Sensing Applications at Berhampur University, (ii) Genesis extent and future of biological sedimentation in Chilka region, Orissa an attempt with IRS-IA at Berhampur University and (iii) Application of Remote Sensing techniques in the regional geologic study of the precambrian rocks of North Orissa at Utkal University, Orissa.

Additional programmes will be taken up for evaluation as and when new research proposals are received from Universities/colleges/laboratories in Orissa.

Conference On Urban Drinking Water And Sanitation

*554 SHRI B. DEVARAJAN:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA
RAJE:

Will the Minister of URBAN

DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three-day conference was held recently in New Delhi on Urban Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation:

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made or decisions arrived at in the Conference; and

(c) the concrete measures proposed to be taken to resolve the problem of drinking water in the urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN
DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SEILA KAUL):

(a) to (c). The National Conference on Urban Water Supply and Sanitation was held from 11th to 13th March, 1993. The objective of the conference was to give a new direction in the sphere of urban water supply and sanitation and to identify a set of reforms to enable the sector to attract funds from institutional sources taking into account the increasing demands and the inadequacy of the plan funds. The conference was attended by the concerned Ministers, Secretaries, Chief Engineers, Managing Directors from the State Governments and sector professionals, etc. to deliberate on the issues related to the sector.

Based on the presentations of four Working Groups, the gist of the the recommendations adopted are as follows:-

I. FINANCIAL ISSUES AND COST RECOVERY

Adoption of the principle of full cost recovery and to treat water supply as utility service with a proviso that subsidies should be provided in a transparent manner and with better targeting to meet the basic requirements of the poor and in locations where capital costs are very high.

Funds for cost reduction, full autonomy to the concerned institutions for tariff fixation, separation of water supply and sanitation accounts and switch to commercial accounting system, repayment of lending