

sent any team to investigate the matter; and

(f) if so, the details of the report submitted by the team, if any?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Some newspaper reports alleged that there is an increase in cancer cases and reduction in vegetation in Gopalpur where the Orissa Sand Complex (OSCOM) is located. These reports are attributed to unnamed doctors and unnamed agricultural scientists and are not based on scientific facts. The OSCOM operations do not pollute the environment with radioactivity.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

#### **Alleged Irregularities in P.P.L.**

**2185. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJPATHI :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government are aware of the gross irregularities in the functioning of Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) in Orissa; -

(b) whether the Government have investigated into the matter;

(c) if so, the findings thereof ; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the performance of PPL?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN):** (a) to (c). A

number of cases of irregularities have been noticed in Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL). Some of them are being enquired into by the CBI and some by the Vigilance Department of PPL. In two cases, CBI have not found evidence for proceeding with prosecution and the matter is further being examined. Action has also been taken against some officials found guilty of irregularities.

(d) A number of steps have been taken to check irregularities. These include:

i) appointment of a senior IPS Officer as Chief Vigilance Officer;

ii) drawing up of a schedule for preventive vigilance in the company in sensitive areas;

iii) review of policies and procedures to plug loopholes/lacunae in respect of tenders, contracts, purchases, etc; and

iv) strengthening of internal audit system.

Measures have also been taken to improve the physical performance of PPL which, inter-alia, include ensuring availability of raw materials; proper maintenance of plant and machinery; formation and implementation of proper monitoring system at all levels for fixing accountability via- avis targets; enforcement of discipline, etc. These measures have resulted in significant improvement in the performance during the past eight months of the current financial year and capacity utilisation has been about 90%.

[*Translation*]

#### **Growth Rate of Orissa**

**2186. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:** Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state;