

राज्य सरकारों तथा संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों से एकत्रित की जा रही है।

(ग) भारत रक्षा तथा आन्तरिक सुरक्षा नियमों के अधीन जांच-पड़ताल तथा विचारण के लिए लम्बित पड़े मामलों पर पुनर्विचार करने और आर्थिक अपराधियों तथा हिंसक कार्यों के दोषी व्यक्तियों के मामलों को छोड़कर सभी मामलों को वापस लेने के लिए राज्य सरकारों संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों को अनुरोध दिये गये हैं। इन अनुरोधों में वे व्यक्ति भी शामिल हैं जिन्हें न्यायालयों द्वारा भारत रक्षा तथा आन्तरिक सुरक्षा नियमों के विभिन्न उपबन्धों के अधीन सजा दी गई है और राज्य सरकारों संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों को उपर्युक्त दोनों श्रेणियों के कैदियों के मामलों, अर्थात् आर्थिक अपराधियों और हिंसक कार्यों के दोषी व्यक्तियों को छोड़ कर ऐसे सभी कैदियों की सजाएं जो उनके द्वारा काटी नहीं गई हैं माफ करने की सलाह दी गई है।

#### Geo-Thermal Power Sources

136. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any Geo-Thermal Power sources in our country; and

(b) whether the Government are utilising the sources?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Geo-thermal manifestations in the form of hot springs occur in several parts of the country. The most important among these are located in North-western Himalayas and along the West Coast.

(b) Investigations are at present in progress in promising areas in the North-Western Himalayas and along the West Coast to establish the geo-

thermal energy potential and examine the feasibility of utilising it for power generation. Some experiments relating to utilisation of geo-thermal energy from some investigation holes have been tried for uses other than power generation, like refining borax and sulphur.

#### Utilisation of Solar Energy

137. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research is being conducted regarding utilisation of solar energy; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Research activities are directed towards developing (i) thermal uses of solar energy; and (ii) direct conversion into electricity. The thermal uses of solar energy require devising of collector systems and using this energy directly or by converting it into mechanical energy. Considerable progress has been made in developing flat plate collectors which enable solar energy to be utilised at low and medium temperatures. Work is continuing on improving the collection system by evolving appropriate selective coatings and on reducing the cost of collection. Priorities have also been laid down for the end-use of such energy and the main items are as follows:

- (i) pumping for irrigation purposes;
- (ii) drying of agricultural products;
- (iii) cooling for food preservation;
- (iv) desalination of salt and brackish water;
- (v) water heating and space heating;
- (vi) air-conditioning.