

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) The Labour Ministers' Conference recommended amendment of Factories Act, 1948 to include suitable provisions to deal with safety in hazardous industries. The Conference also recommended that penalty for continued violation of safety regulations in hazardous industries should be compulsory imprisonment.

(b) and (c). The State Governments have been advised to set up Task Forces/Committees to identify the hazardous industries in their areas and make details of the same available to the organisation of DGFASLI who would thereafter prepare a common list of hazardous industries.

(d) Government have formulated educational Plan of Action with a view to reduce accidents as well as the occupational health hazards. This Plan which is to be implemented by employers, employees, State Governments/Union Territory Administrations envisages adoption of safety and health accidents reduction measures in all enterprises which are identified as hazardous units, setting up of a safety control cell in the States and workers involvement in schemes on safety and prevention of health hazards.

Bio-gas Technology

2031. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether biogas technology is not catching up fast enough due to failure of ICAR's R&D effort;

(b) how do India's biogas technology and production compare with those of China; and

(c) steps taken to step up R&D efforts in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) No, Sir. It is not

right to say that bio-gas technology is not catching up. India is the second largest country using bio-gas technology in the World and Indian Council of Agricultural Research has given sufficient R&D support in this area. As a matter of fact it was ICAR's pioneering work that helped India in exploiting bio-gas technology on a large scale.

(b) Our bio-gas technology compares well with that of China. It may be mentioned that since 1981-82 bio-gas installations in the country have been almost doubling every year.

(c) The Government of India have created the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources which is now the nodal Department for bio-gas technology. In their programme, bio-gas technology has been priority. They have a National Project on Bio-gas Development. ICAR is operating a Coordinated Scheme on Renewable Energy Sources and a multilocation Operational research scheme on energy and nutrient management in agriculture where bio-gas technology is a key component.

Financial aid to States for Pest Control Schemes

2032. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre is to fund Haryana Pest Control Scheme for "White grub" and if so, details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that most pests are airborne and affect crops across States and national borders; and

(c) whether Government propose to give similar financial aid and support to all such pest control schemes for all the States including Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central