

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Cases of unauthorised and illegal transit of narcotics through Delhi have come to notice.

(b) Trading of drugs has become profitable. The same quantities of drug fetch in Delhi double the price, they would have fetched in Pakistan, and when the drug is exported abroad, it may bring up to ten times the price. Retailers of drugs have been found to be auto-rickshaw drivers, rickshaw pullers and foreigners who operate in the walled city areas of Delhi. A person who becomes a drug addict some times becomes a paddler later in order to make profit by disposing of small quantity of these drugs.

(c) During the investigation of the cases registered in this respect, no such connivance of officials with drug smugglers is substantiated.

(d) The following remedial steps are being taken by Government :

- (i) A new Act called "The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985" has been enacted with effect from 14-11-1985 which provides stringent punishment for drug trafficking offences. Minimum punishment has been enhanced from 3 years to 10 years (Rigorous Imprisonment). Repeat offences can attract a punishment of 15 years extendable to 30 years and heavy fines.
- (ii) Government has stepped up its vigil on the inter-state drug traffickeers.
- (iii) Raids are conducted to detect the places where sale of illegal narcotics and drugs is suspected.
- (iv) Regular surprise checking of vehicles is organised to detect those involved in such trade.
- (v) Continuous efforts are made both by the Special Squads of the Districts as well as Crime Branch to detect the illegal trafficking of drugs. A special drive has been launched by the Delhi Police since 14-11-85 and a large quantity of drugs has been recovered.

(vi) Intelligence system has been strengthened to detect the persons who indulge in drug trafficking.

(vii) Instructions have been issued to all SHOs/ACsP to check guest houses/hotels located in their areas where foreigners stay and maintain a watch on suspicious persons indulged in such illegal activities.

Indigenous Production of Mono-Crystalline Silicon

6004. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mettur Chemicals have succeeded in producing indigenous and photovoltaic grade poly and monocrystalline silicon as reported in Hindustan Times of January 6, 1986;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the indigenous plant has cost only Rs. 3.5 crores for an annual capacity of 25 tonnes as against Rs. 92 crores scheduled for National Silicon Facility; and

(c) if so, whether Government now propose to give up the idea of importing technology from Hemlock Company of USA for manufacture of high grade silicon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Metkem Silicon Limited, which is wholly owned subsidiary of Mettur Chemicals, have produced poly and monocrystalline silicon of photovoltaic grade in their pilot plant. As regards their progress on the production plant, following message was received on 3rd March 1986 "Regular power supply given on February 28 by Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board. Start up work proceeding smoothly."

(b) Metkem Silicon Limited have been requested to indicate the cost of their indigenous plant. Their answer is awaited. Cost of 200 tonnes polysilicon plant of National Silicon Facility (NSF) was estimated earlier to be Rs. 92 crores. In addition, the scope of NSF is larger than the scope of Metkem Silicon's plant.

(c) Government's decision in this matter as informed to Parliament on 14th March, 1985 is as follows :

"The Government have taken the decision to enter into an agreement with the Hemlock Semiconductor Corporation, USA after a careful assessment of the present stage of the techno-economic viability and cost effectiveness of the indigenously developed process. At the same time, the Government will give the fullest support to the effort for the development of indigenous process on a commercial scale, and the investment decision in regard to the National Silicon Facility will be taken only after evaluating the results achieved by the production unit of 25 TPA being set up by the Mettur Chemicals."

After the production plant of Metkem Silicon Limited is reported by them as stabilized and in regular operation, indigenously developed process will be examined from the view point of techno-economic viability and cost effectiveness. The product from the production plant will also be evaluated for its acceptability by device manufacturers.

Indian Missions in Rented Houses

6005. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that still many of our missions in foreign countries continue to be housed in rented buildings;

(b) if so, their number and the financial out go involved per year; and

(c) what steps are being taken to own buildings and what allocation, if any, has been made for the current year for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of properties rented for our missions abroad is as follows :

Chancery

— 74

Head of Mission/Post residence — 65

Other residence — 1322

The financial outgo for all these rented buildings is approximately Rs. 16 Crores per annum.

(c) The Government is pursuing the policy of purchasing/constructing suitable properties abroad for accommodating our missions. A sum of Rs. 25 Crores has been earmarked for the purpose during the current financial year.

[Translation]

Amount for Punjab for Power Sector In Seventh Plan

6006. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that various groups of Planning Commission had recommended an amount of Rs. 2800 crores in Seventh Five Year Plan for power sector for Punjab;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government have reduced this amount; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). An outlay of Rs. 1638 crores has been approved for States's power sector for Seventh Plan, as against Working Group's recommendation of Rs. 2416.08 crores, keeping in view the overall plan size of Rs. 3285 crores of the State and inter-se sectoral priorities.

Committee for Implementation of Projects

6007. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :

Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state ;