(b) if so, whether such Committees have been constituted in all the States including Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in order to make the working of these committees more effective ?

THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY) : (a) and (b). Implementation and monitoring committees for the 20-Point Programme have been set-up in all the States including U.P. at the district and block/taluka levels. Non-official people's representatives are represented on these committees.

(c) No fresh steps are proposed to be taken.

[*English*]

Launching of Remote Sensing Satellite

6011. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made efforts to launch remote sensing satellite; and

(b) is so, what specific steps have been taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNO-LOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The experimental remote sensing satellites, Bhaskara-1 and Bhaskara-2 were launched in collaboration with USSR in 1979 and 1981 respectively. These two satellites were used to take imageries over India in optical, near infra-red and micro-wave regions. The resolution being coarser of the order of 1 km., the imageries were extensively used for studying snow run-off, large water and land masses, geological features and ocean surface studies. In addition, the Rohini satellites launched by SLV-3 carried experimental remote sensing

payloads. Through the experience gained from these satellites and the use of data from other satellites, a semi-operational state of art, the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite was conceived to take imageries with a fine resolution of about 36 metres and 75 metres.

The Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) Satellite System is tailored to the needs of Indian resources survey and management, laying stress on agriculture, water manage-ment, forestry, geology land use planning, etc. The development of an Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) Satellite for the effective utilisation of remote sensing technology and the establishment of a National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS) are in progress. The launch of the first, semi-operational spacecraft of the series will be from abroad in 1987. The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is being developed for the launch of IRS-class satel-lites. The first developmental flight of PSLV is expected to be in 1989-90.

Indo-USSR Cooperation in Electronics

6012. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have establish-ed cooperation in the field of electronics and computers with the USSR;

(b) if so, how many years' agreement has been signed with USSR on the above matter; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to expand Indo-USSR ties for the growth of electronics and computers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNO-LOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Working Programme of Cooperation between India and USSR in Computers and Electronics has been signed.

(b) The Working Programme of Cooperation is for the Five Year Period 1986-90.

(c) In the framework of Inter-Governmental Indo-Soviet Joint Commission on Economic Scientific and Technical Cooperation, a Working Group has been set up to coordinate and promote cooperation and trade between the two countries in the area of Computers and Electronics. The Working Group meets periodically to review the progress made and identify areas of mutually beneficial cooperation.

Salient features of the Working Programme of Cooperation for the period 1986-90 are given in statement given below.

Statement

Salient features of the Indo-Soviet Working Programme for Cooperation in the field of Computer and Electronics (1986-90) :

1. **Cooperation in the field of Computers :**

In the framework of bilateral cooperation in the field of computer both the sides shall promote development of the following principal activities :

—design and delivery to India of Computers based on hardware and software of EC series Computers and their successors.

—development, manufacture and delivery to the USSR of peripheral devices for various purposes including those for personal computers.

—development, manufacture and delivery to India of computer systems for specialised application based on computers of the Soviet production including specialised software used for Computer models for such applications in various branches of economy.

—development and delivery of specialised application software packages for Soviet Systems by India to the USSR and vice-versa.

—integration of Computers and digital instrumentation into industrial projects being built in India, would henceforth be on the basis of prevailing technology policies and criteria laid out by endusers and the Department of Electronics (DOE).

—delivery of the USSR and vice-versa, systems for automated systems design-CAD-CAM as well as other specialised task oriented systems.

2. **Both the sides will promote :**

—creation of an infrastructure of maintenance, spare parts supply, software support for the computers to be delivered to India and electronic equipment to be delivered to the USSR. From Indian side this infrastructure would cover such goods brought from units/parties who are certified by the Department of electronics.

3. **Cooperation in the field of electronics**

In the framework of bilateral cooperation in the field of electronics both the sides shall promote development of the following principal directions :

—delivery to India of components and other electronic items in accordance with the lists to be specified by the Indian side.

—delivery to the USSR of electronic items to be specified by the USSR.

4. **Scientific Technical Cooperation and Industrial Cooperation**

Scientific Technical Cooperation and Industrial Cooperation in the field of Computer and Electronics shall be developed in the following principal directions :

—The sides find it worth making joint efforts in the direction of design and production of personal computers for domestic and professional purpose including those dedicated to educational application (at Secondary schools, educational institutions of the Middle and Higher stages). The aim of this cooperation is besides meeting part of internal demand of the both countries delivery to markets of third countries.

5. **Cooperation in Third countries :**

—The two sides find it worthwhile strengthening cooperation for ventures/supplies to third countries.

—The two sides shall examine the possibility of participation in the joint projects in third countries including joint activities on market of their countries in respect of computer systems on the basis of the Soviet and Indian hardware and specialised software applied for these hardwares as well as involvement of Indian organizations into installation, maintenance and operation on the mentioned hardware and software as well as hardware/software System Engineering.

—The sides shall examine the possibility of introduction of electronic products into markets of third countries designed and manufactured by the joint efforts of the organizations of the two sides.

Improving Domestic Kitchen Equipments

6013. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any programmes to invent equipment to relieve women of their drudgery at home;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to encourage individuals building machines for kneading of atta, better wood or kerosene burning stoves, etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNO-LOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Department of Science and Technology is implementing a grants-in-aid scheme entitled "Science and Technology for Women". Under this scheme, project involving research and development, demonstration and training programmes, dissemination of information etc. are sponsored in areas which can reduce the drudgery of women, provide them opportunities for income-generation and improve their health and environmental conditions.

Development and introduction of different types of fuel and cooking systems,

devices for reducing the drudgery of women in drawing water from wells and improvements in drainage through soakpits etc, have been undertaken. Simple oil-extracting and husk-expelling devices have also been developed.

(c) Encouragement is given to individuals working in voluntary agencies or scientific institutions for developing and building machines for kneading atta etc. Project proposals for these with a suitable scientific content would have to be evaluated under the normal procedure of the Department of Science and Technology for getting financial support.

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Thailand

6014. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he visited Thailand during the middle of March, 1986;

(b) if so, the outcome of bilateral talks held by him; and

(c) whether India's exports to Thailand and Indian tourists to that country also figured during the talks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Minister of External Affairs paid an official visit to Thailand on 13th March 1986. Besides having an audience with his majesty the King, he called on the Thai Prime Minister and had detailed discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister on bilateral, regional and international issues. These wideranging discussions have helped in the promotion of mutual understanding and expansion of bilateral relations between the two countries.

(c) Yes, Sir. Both sides expressed desire to increase the overall level of bilateral trade. Cooperation in tourism especially in promoting traffic from third countries was also referred to during the talks.