(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Three Point Levy System for Coconut Husk

4488. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have introduced a three points levy system for coconut husk;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this new levy system has been suggested by the special task force appointed to look into the problems of the coir industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF.P.J KURIEN): (a) to (c). On the recommendations of Shri Ashim Chatterjee Committee Report, validity of Three Point Levy Scheme which had expired on 30th September, 1990 has been allowed to continue upto 31st October, 1992. The modified Three Point Levy Scheme shall be operated in Kerala, other than the Districts of Trissur, Malapuram, Palakkad, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod. Shri Ashim Chatterjee Committee while examining the question of continuance of Three Point Levy Scheme has also referred to the "Report of the Task Force" set up by the Government of Kerala.

Demand and Production of Castor Oil

4489. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is big demand for Castor oil in the international market;

(b) whether, despite being at the top in castor oil production, India lags behind in the international market;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the production thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLEIS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Our country is the largest producer of castor oil. We are not lagging behind in international market as our share is 65% of total world trade. However, we are increasingly facing competition from Brazil, China and Thailand.

(d) In order to increase production of castor oil, the following steps have been taken/proposed to be taken:-

i) Registered Users Certificate (industrial) are issued under Solvent Extracted Oils, Edible Floor Control Order, 1967 so as to ensure that castor oil is used for industrial purposes.

ii) Assistance to the States for production and distribution of quality seeds, plant protection measure including supply of plant protection chemicals and equipments for organising demonstration of advance technology are being made through Oilseed Production Programme (OPP).

iii) Intensification of research efforts for increasing the production of oilseeds.

iv) Setting up of necessary proc-

essing and infra-structural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseed.

v) Financial assistance is given to Institutions/Universities for R & D Schemes on detoxification of oilcakes from castor.

Oil extraction Unit in Joint Sector

4490. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil extraction unit is being set up in the joint sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED):(a) As per information available, no application has been received for setting up oil extraction unit in joint sector.

(b) question does not arise.

Plutonium Technology

4491 SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether plutonium technology is the real answer to the present energy crisis;

(b) if so, the steps taken and the progress made in developing this technology for production of plutonium in reactors and its isolation and its utilisation as a fuel in the power reactors; and

(c) the future plan to use plutonium as a fuel?

THE MINISTR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes,Sir. Use of plutonium is an important step in use of atomic energy for meeting future energy needs. The first stage of our nuclear programme is based on pressurised heavy water reactors which will produce plutonium. This plutonium would be used in Fast Breeder Reactors for which research is being carried out at Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam.

(b) and (c). The Plutonium plants have been established at BaRC and at Tarapur, which reprocess the spent fuel from our research reactors at BARC and from power plants at Tarapur and Rajasthan. Presently third plutonium plant is being established at Kalpakkam to process spent fuel from Madras Atomic Power Station and Fast Breeder Test Reactor at Kalpakkam. Considerable R & D work is being carried out at BARC on the fabrication of plutonium based nuclear fuels like the mixed monocarbide of uranium and plutonium for use in Fast Breeder Reactor. The advanced fuel fabrication facility is being set up at Tarapur for the production of mixed-oxide (MOX) fuel using plutonium.

The research reactor PURNIMA-I which became critical in 1972 was the first Indian Reactor to use Plutonium as fuel. In 1985 FBTR went critical at Kalpakkam. Plutonium has been found to be a highly efficient fuel for Fast Breeder Reactor. The next generation of Fast Breeder Reactors using plutonium,is likely to be introduced in the early next century starting 500 MW prototype Fast Breeder Reactor.

Conference on electronics and Telecommunications

4492. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
DR. C. SILVERA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: