

KHURSHEED): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Thorium as fuel of Kakrapar Atomic Power Station

3714. **SHRI SANKERSINH VAGHELA:**
DR. AMRITLAL KALIDAS PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BARC has tapped the vast thorium resources in the country by using it as fuel for the Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor at Kakrapar Atomic Power Station;

(b) the advantages in using this kind of fuel; and

(c) the cost of energy produced/to be produced by utilising this fuel in comparison to the earlier cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) A beginning has been made by loading 35 thorium fuel bundles in the Kakrapar Atomic Power Station Unit-1.

(b) The basic purpose of loading thorium bundles in this reactor is to achieve the objective of flux flattening in the initial core so as to maximise the power level in the initial years of operation. It also given valuable experience in use of thorium as a fuel in

power reactors and enables conversion to fissile material (U-233).

(c) At the present stage, introducing thorium fuel bundles in a limited way is with the purpose mentioned in (b) above. There is no immediate economic impact.

Clearance of Projects/Schemes from Karnataka

3715. **SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:** Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects and schemes submitted by the Government of Karnataka to Union Government are pending clearance;

(b) their present status in each case; and

(c) the time by which the projects and schemes are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No. project or scheme submitted by the Government of Karnataka is pending in the Planning Commission for clearance.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Bio-Gas Plant and Smokeless Chulhas for Assam

3716. **SHRI PROBEN DEKA:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bio-gas plants and smokeless chulhas set up in Assam during the last two years. year-wise:

(b) the amount sanctioned, disbursed and spent for this purpose;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up such plants and chulhas in Assam during the current year;

(d) the amount of subsidy, grant and aid given for the setting up of bio-gas plants and smokeless chulhas in this State; and

(e) the procedure for the granting of such subsidy, grant and aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRISUKHRAM): (a) A total of about 1190 and 990 family type biogas plants and 40,000 and 41,390 improved (smokeless) Chulhas are reported to have been set up in the State of Assam during the last two years i.e. 1990-91 and 1991-92, respectively.

(b) The Government had released in advance a total sum of Rs. 77.32 lakhs under the National Project on Biogas Development and Rs. 65.14 lakhs under the National Programme on Improved Chulhas to the State of Assam during the year 1990-91 and 1991-92. Besides, Khadi & Village Industries Commission was also given funds for these Programmes for the State.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A total sum of Rs. 20.00 lakhs and Rs. 14.88 lakhs has been released in advance to the State nodal department under the National Project on Biogas Development and National Programme on Improved Chulha, respectively during the period April to November, 1992.

(e) Funds are released in advance to the State nodal department in two install-

ments based on physical targets allocated to the State, achievement of targets, approved average amount of subsidy and other norms under these two programmes.

Export Plants of Industrial Houses

3717. SHRISANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked the Industrial Houses to submit export plans as reported in the 'Observer of Business and Politics', New Delhi, dated November 9, 1992;

(b) if so, the fact and reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the follow-up action the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The export projections for coming years have been discussed with these Large Industrial Houses. No specific change is likely to be made in the Import-Export Policy on the basis of the projections made by these Large Industrial Houses.

Production of Clove Oil

3718. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Clove oil is produced in India, if so, the details of areas of its cultivation and production;

(b) whether Clove oil is also exported; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE