

AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Scientists from various national laboratories/institutions and universities have evinced keen interest to use this Mesosphere, Stratosphere and Troposphere (MST) Radar facility at Gadanki near Tirupati for atmospheric research. Encouraging responses have been received to the Announcement of Opportunity issued in September 1993. The responses are presently under evaluation for initiating various experiments using the MST Radar facility. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has also sponsored a Centre for MST Radar Applications at Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati for effective utilisation of MST Radar data by user scientists drawn from various Indian universities.

Opening of More Sainik Schools

2430. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Estimates Committee in its 19th Report has recommended opening of more Sainik Schools in rural areas;

(b) whether the Government are going to implement the recommendation; and

(c) if so, the efforts made for opening such schools in the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A Sainik School is opened in a rural area or anywhere else, on receipt of a concrete proposal from concerned State Government. No proposal in this regard has been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Foreign Investment Proposals

2431. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared any foreign investment proposals during 1993-94;

(b) if so, the details of the major proposals and their intended location;

(c) whether clearance from other Ministries have also been obtained for these projects; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). During the years 1993-94 (upto Jan.), approvals have been accorded to 705 proposals involving foreign direct investment of Rs. 6549.41 crores. The details of these proposals approved viz. name of the Indian Company, name of the foreign collaborator and the country to which it belongs, item of manufacture are published by the Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to their Monthly

Newsletter and copies of these are regularly supplied to the Parliament Library.

(c) and (d). The Reserve Bank of India accords automatic approval for foreign direct investment upto 51% in industries listed in Annex.III in the Statement on Industrial Policy, 1991. All other proposals are cleared on merit by the Govt. in consultation with the Administrative Ministries and other concerned Authorities.

[Translation]

Financial Corporation for NCR

2432. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of setting up of National Capital Region Development Finance Corporation has been cancelled;

(b) whether any proposal with regard to obtain loan from foreign financial institutions for financing NCR schemes is under consideration of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to improve the financial position of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (d). Government has not agreed to the setting up of a National Capital Region

Development Finance Corporation. The broad strategy agreed upon emphasizes private sector investment in the National Capital Region, by adopting a tax-cum-subsidy approach, rather than on debt finance.

[English]

Ocean Thermal Energy in Tamil Nadu

2433. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHEE TINDIVANAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Ocean Thermal Energy Scheme has been launched in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme thereof;

(c) the estimated expenditure of the scheme; and

(d) the time likely to be taken to complete the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d). No Sir. The technical and financial risks in setting up an Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) Power Plant, at the present stage of technology development, are much too high for the Government to invest in setting up such capital intensive plants. However, M/s. Sea Solar Power of USA have shown interest in setting up a 100 MW OTEC power plant off Kulasekharapattinam in Tamil Nadu on an own, build and operate basis at an estimated cost of US \$250 Million and