

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure that the problem of ageing and related issues is studied extensively and degradation of mechanism identified and factors contributing to such degradation tackled in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The design of Nuclear Reactors takes into account the ageing effects and, as such, there is no hazard during the designed life of the reactor. The available indigenous expertise and capability are adequate to meet the challenge posed by ageing effects without any compromise in safety. The problem of ageing of nuclear reactors has been studied extensively both internationally and by the Department of Atomic Energy and adequate measures are taken to ensure that safety is not compromised at any stage in the life of the Reactor. The measures taken include continuous monitoring and inservice inspection of all safety related equipments using advanced techniques and their replacement and rehabilitation as appropriate based on such inspection. Such periodic mandatory inspections are also stipulated by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. The First National Symposium on Ageing Management of Nuclear Facilities was organised during January 13-15, 1994 at Bombay, when various issues relating to ageing management were discussed. Research and Development work has also been undertaken to enhance our capability in those areas.

[*Translation*]

Wasteland Development in Madhya Pradesh

432. SHRI BHEEM SINGH PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by the Government for the development of Wasteland in Madhya Pradesh during 1993-94; and

(b) the amount released so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAO RAM SINGH): (a) and (b) Tree planting/afforestation activity is being carried out under various Central & State Government Plans over various categories of land, including wastelands, under Point No. 16 of the 20-point programme. For the year 1993-94 an amount of Rs. 73.51 crores has been provided for Madhya Pradesh under this programme.

[*English*]

Electoral Reforms

433. SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:
SHRI PARASRAM
BHARDWAJ:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT:
SHRI DATTATRAYA
BANDARU:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS: