

Electrification of Villages

2891. DR. G.L. KANAUIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are encouraging rural entrepreneurship for electrification of villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time schedule fixed to implement this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : (a) Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources has introduced a new component for Rural Youth Unemployment Generation through Solar Lanterns Programme.

(b) Under this programme, each unemployed rural youth may be given upto a maximum of 10 solar lanterns, to operate on hire/lease basis and develop rural markets for the solar lanterns and local infrastructure for their servicing and maintenance. The Central subsidy for solar lantern @ Rs. 2000/- is available for this component of the Scheme.

(c) The scheme has been introduced during 1994-95.

[Translation]

Memorial of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel

2892. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to build a memorial in Delhi in the memory of the iron man Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel;

(b) if so, whether the residence of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel is proposed to be converted into memorial; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[English]

Workshop on Disarmament

2893. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE :
SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any workshop was organised at Goa as a part of Sanghai initiative by a four nation disarmament

conference involving officials and non Government experts;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed therein and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government to the outcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b). A four nation workshop on Global and Regional Arms Control was held in Goa from 14-19 January 1995. The workshop was organised by the Centre for Policy Research, a Delhi based NGO, with the association of the Federation of American Scientists (USA), Fudan University (China) and Institute for Strategic Studies of Pakistan. This was an NGO activity and no Indian official attended the Goa meeting.

(c) Government's policy on disarmament remains consistent and is outlined in India's Action Plan to usher in a Nuclear Weapon Free and Non-Violent World Order presented to the UN General Assembly's Third Special Session devoted to Disarmament in 1988. Government do not propose to take any initiative based upon the deliberations of the meeting in Goa.

[Translation]

Drinking Water Project

2894. DR. AMRITLAL KALIDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any drinking water project is being implemented in the country in collaboration with Germany;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the names of the States, where this project is proposed to be implemented;

(c) the amount likely to be spent on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) No, Sir.

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

GSI Survey of Lignite Ore

2895. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :
DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI :
DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India have conducted any survey to explore deposits of lignite ore in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and