

Goitre

2351. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey has been conducted on the prevalence of Goitre in the country;

(b) if so, the results of the survey and the regions which have been identified as pockets of high prevalence;

(c) whether the Government have any scheme for the control and treatment of Goitre apart from the supply of iodised salt; and

(d) if so, the expenditure on the scheme during 1993-94 and budgeted for 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The survey identified 200 districts out of 242 to be endemic in various States/UTs of the country. The survey revealed that the Northern North Eastern and Terai Regions are pockets of high prevalence.

(c) and (d). Regular consumption of Iodised Salt is the proven method for prevention and control of goitre. Under National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme, an expenditure of Rs. 213.84 lakhs was incurred during the year 93-94. Rs. one crore was provided in the budget for the programme for 1994-95.

[Translation]

Power Generation from Bagasse

2352. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether many sugar mills of Gujarat have sent any proposal regarding power generation from their bagasse to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these mills have made an offer to provide their additional electricity on concessional rates to the State Government; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

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) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

Legal Aid to Women Plaintiff.

2353. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any separate scheme to provide legal aid to women Plaintiff; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b). Under the legal Aid Scheme, women are treated as a special category. They are eligible for free Legal Aid irrespective of their income.

[English]

Small Scale Industries Sector

2354. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced a new policy package to give a boost to small scale sector;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement these packages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) After the announcement of the industrial policy for small scale industries in August, 1991 several new initiatives have been taken by the Government to implement the industrial policy resolution.

(b) and (c). In line with the small scale industrial policy of 1991, the major initiatives taken by the Government are as follows :

- (i) Credit policies have been put in place for small scale industries in line with the recommendations of a committee set up for this purpose.
- (ii) An Integrated Infrastructural Development Scheme has been introduced in March, 1994 to promote development of infrastructural facilities in rural and backward regions.
- (iii) Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana has been implemented from October, 1993 to provide employment opportunities to the educated un-employed youth by assisting setting up of self-employment projects.
- (iv) A new scheme to give assistance to small scale units to obtain quality certification has been implemented.
- (v) The turnover limit in the Excise Exemption Scheme has been increased from the present Rs. 2 crores to Rs. 3 crores.
- (vi) It has been decided to set up a Technology Development and Modernisation Fund in the Small Industries Development Bank of India to provide financial assistance to quality projects aimed at strengthening the export capability in the Small Scale Industries.