

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). A programme for the installation/supply of solar cookers on subsidy was implemented all over the country during the first two years of the Eighth Plan. The programme was modified in April 1994 to provide financial assistance to State and union Territories for promotional activities instead of subsidy. The activities supported include publicity, training, demonstrations, cooking competitions and establishment of sales outlets and service centres. Support is also being provided to manufactures for publicity on a 50% cost sharing basis.

The State of Gujarat is also covered by the programme. An amount of Rs. 5.5 lakhs has been allocated for Gujarat for implementing the programme during 1995-96. A total of 5935 solar cookers have been sold in Gujarat during the Eighth Plan period upto 31.3.1995. An indicative goal of 2500 cookers has been fixed for 1995-96 for the State.

Energy from Non-Traditional Sources

2936. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several new methods have been invented for production of energy from non-conventional sources such as grass, paddy, husk woods etc. by the Scientist of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these methods are not widely known/ utilised or used in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to popularise these methods in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATES IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Under two research projects sponsored by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, the Department of Aerospace Engineering, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore has developed gasifier technology for production of energy from paddy husk, sugarcane trash and wood.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. Gasifier technology has already been developed by various institutions including IISc and Industries. It is being popularized under a Central Scheme on Demonstration of Biomass Gasifiers, which provides for 30 to 75 per cent financial assistance on the capital cost for various applications, training of user industries and

publicity. Fiscal incentives such as 100 per cent depreciation in the first year and exemption from levy of Central Excise Duty are also available. Short loans are being given by the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).

Exploration Minerals

2937. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian efforts towards exploration of mineral rich sea bed has reached final stage;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which this exploration is likely to be commercially viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The technology development for exploitation of deep sea minerals is at exploratory stage. Due to the availability of land-based resources and due to unfavourable trend in metal prices in international market, no country including USA has so far developed a fulfilled mining system for commercial exploitation of nodules from deep sea.

(c) Independent studies carried out by France and Australia indicate that the seabed mining would not be commercially viable before 2010/2015.

Male Sterilisation

2938. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up State-wise targets for male sterilisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve these targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b). The State Governments have been advised to aim at a level of 10% in male Sterilisation out of the total sterilisations during 1995-96. The States where the level is already 10% has been advised to aim at a level of 15%.

(c) Besides Information, Education, Communication