

(d) The estimated cost of demolition of the damaged inner containment dome and reconstruction of the redesigned dome of Kaiga-I is around Rs. 13 crores.

Funds for Research Projects

1575. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether shortage of funds has affected many research projects of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR);

(b) if so, the number of projects which have been dropped;

(c) whether studies on high temperature super-conductivity and other important projects have been scrapped; and

(d) if so, the strategy to be adopted for continuation of research work in CSIR?

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. In fact the Government budgetary support to CSIR has been increasing over the years, and CSIR has also been generating increasing amount of funds from external sources.

(c) No, Sir. the studies on high temperature superconductivity and other important projects are continuing.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

1576. SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the Railways propose to convert Ganganagar Metre Gauge line into a Broad Gauge line;

(b) whether the Railway Board had announced to introduce two-tier A/C in the Ganganagar Express in 1995; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) Gauge conversion of Sarupsar-Sriganganagar-Hanumangarh line to BG is included in the first phase of the Action Plan under Project Unigauge and would be taken up in the coming years.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to provide 2nd AC sleeper coach on 9711/9712 Jaipur-Sri Ganganagar Express depending on the availability of such coaches.

[English]

Low Cost Sanitation Scheme.

1577. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh has lagged behind in the implementation of the low-cost sanitation schemes;

(b) whether Andhra Pradesh has so far utilised a mere 11.6 pc of the loan sanctioned by the HUDCO for the same;

(c) if so, the main reasons for not utilising the loan fully; and

(d) the steps being taken to impress the State Government to utilise the loans fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI R.K. DHAWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The total amount released against the loan sanctioned by HUDCO for various schemes in Andhra Pradesh works out to 14.57%.

(c) The main reasons for the slow progress are:-

(a) Delay in completion of legal documentation prescribed for obtaining loan and subsidy from HUDCO;

(b) Delay in providing utilisation certificates by the Municipality/State Government concerned in respect of first instalment of loan and subsidy resulting in delays in the release of balance loan/subsidy;

(c) Lack of proper monitoring system for the effective implementation of the programme at the State level;

(d) Non-submission of periodic Quarterly Progress Reports by the Municipalities/State Governments to Government of India/HUDCO resulting in lack of awareness of each other's problems.

(d) In August, 1995, Secretary, Urban Development had written to the Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh for taking suitable measures for stepping up the pace of implementation of this scheme. This was followed by a letter in September, 1995 from the Minister for Urban Development to the Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh. A review meeting was also held with the representatives of the State Government on 17.11.95 with a view to accelerate the progress of low cost sanitation in the State.

[Translation]

Air Base

1578. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Air base in the country particularly in Gujarat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to set up an airfield over 4326 acres of land in Deesa in Gujarat. Besides this airfields are also proposed in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.