PHALGUNA 28, 1911 (SAKA)

Economic Plantation Scheme in Eighth Plan

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

(a) the year of inception of the centrally sponsored Economic Plantation Scheme under Social Forestry Programme;

(b) whether the same scheme will continue during the Eighth Plan period; and

(c) if so, the details of amount and new area earmarked in Orissa for implementing that scheme in Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOR-ESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMEN-TATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) There is no scheme called Centrally sponsored Economic Plantation Scheme under implementation.

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

Atomic Energy Policy

978. SHRI D. AMAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the changes being contemplated, if any, in the Atomic Energy Policy, by the Government? THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOL-OGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DE-PARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): The atomic energy policy of the country is a well conceived national policy and has served the country's interests well. Government propose to continue the present policy.

Drop out rate among the Students belonging to SC and ST Category

979. SHRI D. AMAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the drop out rate at primary and high schools level in the country among the students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and girls, separately as on 30th November, 1989; and

(b) the steps being taken to check the drop out rate ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOL. OGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DE-PARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DE-VELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) According to the latest information available with the Ministry, drop out rate at Primary (Class I-V) and High School (Class I-X) levels for 1966-87 is as follow :

	Gırls	SC	ST
Class I-V	51.9	50.2	64.3
Class I-X	81.3	79.0	87.2

(b): The National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986 gives very high priority to solving the problem of children dropping out of school and recommends adoption of an array of meticulously formulated strategies based on micro-planning and applied at the grassroots level all over the country, to ensure children's retention at school.