

Bio-Gas Plants with Government Assistance

6646. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bio-gas plants set up in the country with Government loans and grants during 1984-85;

(b) the number of bio-gas plants, out of them, operating at present;

(c) the reasons for which the rest of the bio-gas plants remain out of order; and

(d) whether Government propose to make available additional assistance for repairs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) A total of 1,80,430 family based biogas plants have been set up in the country during 1984-85 under the National Project for Biogas Development. Besides, 70 community and institutional biogas plants have also been commissioned during the year. While subsidy is given by the Government, loans are provided by commercial and cooperative banks.

(b) and (c). No reports indicating non-operation of biogas plants installed during 1984-85 have been received from State Governments and Khadi and Village Industries Commission. A few reports have, however, been received from individuals which have been referred to the concerned implementing agencies for inspection, report and comments. Community and institutional biogas plants set up during the year are functioning satisfactorily.

(d) Under 'Repair Scheme', grants upto Rs. 500 per defective plant is being given for rectification of family based biogas plants. Higher grants are also given for repairs on case to case basis.

Bird Sanctuary in Thol Lake of Mehsana District in Gujarat

6647. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Thol Lake in Kadi Taluka of Mehsana District in Gujarat has the potential of being developed into birds sanctuary;

(b) whether rare species of birds like Flemings are being observed at the Thol Lake;

(c) whether steps have been taken to stop pollution from industrial effluents before the lake is declared as birds sanctuary; and

(d) if so, whether a decision has been taken by the State Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A variety of water birds including flamin goes have been observed at the Thol lake.

(c) and (d). Control of pollution in the lake is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. No decision is reported to have been taken in this regard so far.

Maintenance of Low Cost Hostels in Orissa

6648. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether maintenance of low cost hostels in Tribal Sub-Plan areas of Orissa has been affected due to paucity of funds; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government for smooth running of these hostels ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) Detailed information is likely to be available with the State Government as "Maintenance" is a State item.

(b) The Government of India provided an amount of Rs. 320 lakhs out of the Special Central Assistance for improvement of education in Orissa during the year 1984-85.