

(b) and (c). The report is confined to technical aspects only and is currently being examined by the Government of India.

(d) Does not arise.

**Development of indigenous product  
for Crop-Economy**

**2474. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :  
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :**

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune has developed a novel indigenous process and product that promises to revolutionise the crop-economy of vast irrigation starved areas of the country;

(b) if so, detail thereof and how far it is successful; and

(c) steps being taken to popularise it particularly in dry-land farming and forest areas?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN  
DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY,  
ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ  
V. PATIL) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The product is a polymer with very high capacity for holding large quantities of water. It can be applied to soil or by coating seeds. In trials, it has been shown to increase productivity in groundnut, wheat, jowar, fodder cereals, and tomato and delay withering of plantlets from 5 to 14 days, contributing to survival of plant during transport.

(c) Pilot plant production of Jalshakti is commencing shortly and material will be available for larger scale trials. Commercial production is also envisaged.

**Early Sanction and enhancement of  
Freedom Fighters pension to  
widows of pensioners**

**2475. PROF. NARAIN CHAND  
PARASHAR :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the instructions for early sanction and enhancement of Freedom Fighters Pension to Rs. 500/-per month also covers the case of sanction and payment of pension at this rate to the widows of Freedom fighters whose cases are pending with the Government ?

(b) if so, the likely date by which the cases of all such widows would be decided; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to remove the hardships to such widows ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI  
P.A. SANGMA) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). In order to remove the hardships to the widows, the procedure for grant of pension has already been simplified and the transfer of family pension in the cases where pension was sanctioned after September, 1983 has been made automatic in a way that the name of the wife and her unmarried daughters are indicated in the sanction letters itself with instructions to the concerned Accountants General to authorise family pension at the admissible rates, on production of necessary documents to the concerned Treasury officer.

In the case of pension sanctioned before September, 1983, the freedom fighters have been advised to furnish declaration/affidavit to the Accountants General giving the particulars of the eligible nominees so as to enable him to revise the P.P. Os in their favour.

The highest priority is accorded to the disposal of applications of the widows in this Ministry.

**Atomic Power Plants**

**2476. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA  
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :**

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Atomic Power Plants functioning in the country and the power generated in each Atomic Power Plant and