

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) No, Sir. The Government has not yet considered the question of setting up a separate agency for mining of polymetallic nodules in the Indian Ocean.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is too early to consider the question of setting up a separate agency for mining manganese nodules in the Indian Ocean. The question will be considered after a particular mine site has been allotted by the Preparatory Commission of the International Seabed Authority to India.

Production of Low Cost Amorphous Silicon Solar Cell

4012. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI LALITESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the indigenous efforts made to commercially produce at low cost and utilise the amorphous silicon solar cell (ASC) energy ?

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) : The Department of Non-conventional Energy Sources is implementing an integrated research programme for the development of amorphous silicon solar cells since 1983. The programme at present involves seven research institutions. The indigenous efforts so far have created a research base in this technology and have already led to the development of a 7.5% efficiency small area cell in the laboratory. The Government have accorded high priority to development of this technology during the 7th Plan. Accordingly the Department of Non-

conventional Energy Sources is establishing a pilot plant for production of amorphous silicon solar cells and modules. This facility is expected to contribute to the development of lower cost devices which can be produced commercially and utilised on a wider scale.

Permission for Felling of Trees in Tirupathi

4013. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have accorded sanction for the felling of trees to accommodate the buildings intended for the Shri Padmavathi Mahila University at Tirupathi;

(b) whether any efforts were made to secure a bare site for the construction of the said university buildings;

(c) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) No Such proposal has been received.

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

Setting up a Separate Body to Hear Grievances of Railways Pensioners

4014. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a separate Body to hear the grievances of Railways Pensioners and to decide on the spot; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to set up a separate body to hear the grievances of Railway