

this facility of election broadcast to recognised political parties during bye-elections.

**Increase in off take of Polyester Staple Fibre**

2815. SHRI N. SUNDARARAJ : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported increase in off take of Polyester Staple Fibre after the reduction in excise duty from Rs. 25 to Rs. 15 per kg.

(b) If so, whether despite this increase in off take the industry is working at below capacity ;

(c) if so, whether the reduction in duty would still increase the off take ; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGA RAO) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Normally reduction in price of Polyester Staple Fibre would increase the offtake,

(d) Decisions on such cases are taken on merits.

**Setting up of biogas plants in Gujarat**

2816. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether biogas plants can be a substitute for coal and other forms of energy, there being repeated shortage and failure of electricity in Gujarat and other States;

(b) if so, how and to what extent;

(c) the number of biogas plants set up during 1-1-84 to 31-7-88 in the districts of Bulsar, Surat and Baroda, the details of the places and the amount spent on each ones;

(d) the target for 1989 to 1991 for Surat and other districts of Gujarat;

(e) what sort of assistance and help is being given for setting up bio-gas plants and the latest rules, procedure, guidelines and policy in regard thereto; and

(f) the details of the bio-gas plants existing at present in each district of Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Biogas can substitute partly or fully coal and other energy sources presently being used for cooking purposes in rural areas. There is an estimated theoretical potential of setting up of about 16 to 22 million family type biogas plants in the country including about 7 to 10 lakh biogas plants for Gujarat State.

(c) Information is being obtained from the State Government and will be placed on the Table of the House on receipt.

(d) targets for 1989-90 and 1990-91 will be determined in the years concerned depending on the financial allocations available.

(e) The National Project for Biogas Development, envisages *inter-alia*, Central subsidy, turn-key job fee, service charges, promotional cash incentives, training programmes, repair and maintenance charges and field demonstration on utility of manure. The rates of central subsidy approved for 1988-89 are given in the Statement below. A target of setting up 1.50 lakh plants has been fixed for 1988-89. Funds are released to State Governments and programme implementing agencies on the basis of their respective targets and progress made during the course of the year,

(f) Information is being obtained from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.