

country through solar energy; and

(b) If so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). Solar photovoltaic systems have been provided for street lighting, domestic lighting, community lighting and community television in remote villages in hill areas of the country. So far, more than 300 such villages have been provided with these systems by way of initial electrification in hilly areas of U.P., Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya etc. Further expansion of this programme to cover all unelectrified villages in hill areas will depend on the availability of funds.

Air Station in Hill Areas

3044. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work has started for all the AIR stations to be constructed in the hill areas of the country during the Seventh Plan period;

(b) the names of sanctioned stations for which construction work has not yet started;

(c) whether Government propose to prepare any special action plan to start construction of these stations soon; and

(d) if not, what alternative measures are proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K.K. TEWARY): (a) No, Sir. However, construction has started at a number of places in the hill areas of the country where new radio stations are

being established during the 7th Plan.

(b) Construction work has not yet started in the AIR stations in the hill areas at Ziro, Tawang, Tezpur, Dharamshala, Kinnaur, Hamirpur, Kulu, Simla, Kargil, Jammu, Jowai, Lungleh, Gopeshwar (Chamoli), Pauri, Pithoragarh, Uttar Kashi, Mussoorie, Kodalkanal, Kurseong, Nasik, Idukki and Calicut.

(c) and (d). All efforts are being made to implement the schemes as early as possible.

Micro-Hydel Projects in U.P.

3045. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the names of the micro-hydel projects in the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh proposed to be taken up or completed by the end of the Seventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): The requisite information is awaited from Uttar Pradesh Government as micro-mini hydel projects below the capital cost of Rs. 5 crores can be taken up by the State Government/State agency without obtaining any clearance from the Central Government.

The information, when received, will be placed on the table of the House.

Study Group to Survey Tourism Facilities in Hilly areas of U.P.

3046. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study Group is proposed to be sent for survey in hilly areas of U.P. to explore the possibilities for expansion of tourism facilities and for making investment therefor;

(b) if so, the time by which this Study Group propose to be sent there; and

(c) if not, the strategy likely to be adopted during the Eighth Plan for expansion of tourism facilities in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) and (b). A Tourism Potential Survey has recently been undertaken by the Central Department of Tourism in the Garhwal region of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) The strengthening of tourism infrastructure is a continuous process and the Central Department of Tourism provides financial assistance to State Governments for this purpose subject to availability of funds and priorities. The schemes taken up by Uttar Pradesh Government for expansion of tourism facilities in hilly areas of the State include construction of accommodation units at various tourist spots, provision of mountaineering and trekking facilities at Auli near Joshimath, development of George Everest House, (Near Mussoorie), Corbett National Park, Malsi Deer Park and Jharapani, and beautification of satellite spots near Mussoorie, etc.

[English]

Equipment for IB Valley Thermal Power Project

3047. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to procure requirement for the proposed IB Valley thermal power project in Orissa;

(b) if so, the name of the public sector undertaking given contract for those equip-

ment;

(c) the date by which the equipment would be supplied to the Orissa Power Generation Corporation for the purpose;

(d) the cost of those equipment; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (e). 1b Thermal Power Project, comprising of four units of 210 MW each was sanctioned by the Planning Commission in April, 1987. Letter of Intent for supply of boiler and TG equipment with associated auxiliaries for first two units has been placed on M/s BHEL on 8.12.1988 at total price of Rs. 220 crores, stipulating contractual completion of supplies by March, 1992 and September, 1992 respectively. An advance of Rs. 22 crores has already been paid by M/s Orissa Power Generation Corporation to BHEL as 10% interest-free advance. Units 1&2 are expected to be commissioned by September, 1992 and March, 1993 respectively.

Air Accidents

3048. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of air crashes in India in which planes of foreign airlines were involved during the last two years; and

(b) the details of loss of life and property in these accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) There was only one case of accident involving foreign airline aircraft in India during the