

dering utilisation of data from the space telescope.

(c) Any scientific data of the nature available from the space telescope will definitely increase our knowledge of astronomy. Indian scientists have been engaged in astronomical and astrophysical studies using a variety of instruments from the ground, rockets, balloons and also from data available from foreign satellites. It is also planned to put some astronomical payloads in Indian satellites. As far as space telescope is concerned, since it is a very major instrument in space, participation in such an endeavour would definitely increase our knowledge. The benefits from these are not immediately quantifiable in economic terms.

(d) The Space Telescope is a high-resolution 2.4 metre optical telescope that will be placed in a circular earth orbit at an altitude of 590 KM with an inclination of 28.5° to the equator using US Space Shuttle by mid-1986. The telescope is designed to allow on-orbit servicing by means of the space shuttle and replacement of focal plane instruments making it possible to gather a vast amount of data on a variety of celestial objects and events. The overall scientific objective of the space telescope programme is to gain a significant increase in understanding of the past, present and future of the universe using the observational data so gathered. Some of the focal plane instruments to be used in the first observational phase are developed by the European Space Agency.

Knowledge of Hindi for officials of Indian Embassies

4516. SHRI R. P. DAS : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether many officers/employees working with the Indian Embassies/Missions do not have required knowledge of the Official Language Policy of the Government of India and the legal provisions regarding the use of Hindi as official language of the Union;

(b) if so, how do they use Hindi progressively in their official work daily; and

(c) if not, reaction thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) Our Missions/Posts abroad are kept fully informed about the rules and regulations relating to the Official Language Policy of the Government of India which are issued by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, from time to time. Our Missions/Posts abroad are, therefore, conscious of their obligations in this regard.

(b) and (c). Officers in our Missions abroad use Hindi to the extent possible in written and oral communication in correspondence with Headquarters and during functions organised by Indian nationals or people of Indian origin abroad. The Ministry is also continuing its efforts through its Missions abroad to propagade Hindi in foreign countries, with particular emphasis on countries with a significant number of people of Indian origin. Convenience of communication, however, necessitates the continuing use of English, together with the local language where possible, in communication with the local Governments and other agencies in foreign countries, which is the primary function of our Missions abroad.

Fuel for Rocket and its use in production of atomic energy

4517. SHRI AKHTAR HASAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that for the first time fuel for rockets has been developed in the country to be used in future space programmes; and

(b) if so, whether the same fuel can also be used in the reactors to produce Atomic Energy for day to day use for peaceful purposes ?

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) A high energy solid propellant fuel has been developed on a laboratory scale at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Trivandrum.

(b) No, Sir.

Secunderabad Cantonment

4518. DR. G. VIJAY RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a break down in civic administration in Secunderabad and other cantonments in the country as evidenced by non-holding of election to civil bodies for last several years and if so, corrective steps proposed;

(b) whether Government propose to improve the working of cantonment Boards by nominating the MLAs and M.Ps, of the area on these Boards;

(c) whether sanitation and other civic amenities including roads have seriously deteriorated in Secunderabad; and

(d) whether Government will also ensure speedy improvements in the neglected slum areas by providing housing, educational and other essential amenities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government are conscious of the need of improvement in civic amenities in the Cantonment areas. Rs. 90 lakhs have been paid in March, 1985 to the Cantonment Board, Secunderabad towards service charges for undertaking developmental works to improve the civic and other essential amenities.

Benefits extended to freedom fighters in 1985

4519. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether more benefits have been extended to the freedom fighters during 1985; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and when these are to be enforced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) : The monthly amount of pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, both for living freedom fighters and the widows of the deceased freedom fighters has been raised to Rs. 500/- w.e.f. 1.6.1985. Detailed instructions have already been issued to the Accountants General to modify the Pension Payment Orders to give effect to the revision of the amount of pension.

2. The Government have finalised the scheme of giving free Railway Passes to freedom fighters. Under the Scheme, first class complimentary cheque passes will be issued to such freedom fighters who are drawing pension from the Central revenues under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme. It will be a one-time pass connecting any two railway stations, including a Circular pass as given in the Railway Time-tables. The freedom fighter will also be allowed to take his spouse or an attendant in the same class free of cost. The Scheme has come into force from 1st December, 1985.

Accused in L. N. Mishra Case in Tihar Jail without prosecution

4520. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that persons alleged to be involved in the murder of the former Rail Minister[?] Shri L. N. Mishra on 2 January, 1975 have been kept in the jail custody in Central Tihar Jail without any prosecution launched against them for the past 10 years despite CBI's investigation in the matter; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such an inordinate delay in launching prosecution against the concerned persons ?