

Solar Energy through burning of Woods and Leaves

84. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Gujarat Agriculture University is presently engaged in the research for harnessing solar energy through the burning of woods and leaves;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the efforts of Gujarat Agricultural University to search alternative sources of energy. The Government of Gujarat has conceived a project on energy plantation and the same is proposed to be implemented through Gujarat Agricultural University by planting fuel trees on 1,000 acres. During the current year, 200 acres of the proposed area will be brought under energy plantation.

The University is planning to plant 5 different varieties of trees to evaluate their growth and thermal potential. After critical appraisal of the data generated by this Project, the University will undertake the construction of some decentralised 4-5 megawatt power stations in the State where instead of coal, fuelwood will be used as an energy source.

(c) The Project on energy plantation has been initiated only about a week back.

Sale of Wheat at less Price due to inadequate storage facilities and lack of Transportation

85. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to inadequate storage facilities with the Food Corporation of India and also due to lack of transportation, the farmers throughout the country were forced to dispose off wheat at throw away prices during the last harvesting season as a result there was less procurement by F.C.I. this year compared to last year; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). No reports have been received by the Government that the farmers were forced to dispose of wheat at throw away prices in the current rabi marketing season of 1978-79, on account of any shortage of storage facilities with the Food Corporation of India and State procurement agencies or due to lack of transportation. In fact, the total procurement of wheat in the country has touched a new high this season. Till 5th July the total procurement of wheat has been of the order of 77.58 lakh tonnes against 53.95 lakh tonnes in the corresponding period of last year.

Implementation of Ravi-Beas Award

86. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government award of 1976 on Ravi-Beas water settlement between Haryana and Punjab is not being implemented as a result of which