

opportunities to go up and also to partake in research activities in an independent capacity;

(b) whether any study has been made to find out the normal time that one employee in these establishments takes for earning his next promotion; and

(c) what machinery exists in these organisations through which the scientists and employees can make known their grievances and appropriate steps taken to remedy them?

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI):** (a) to (c). Promotions in the Department of Atomic Energy are regulated under Merit Promotion Scheme. Under this scheme, a scientist is considered for promotion to the next higher grade after about 4—7 years service depending upon his performance and if a vacancy is not available a new post is created to accommodate such promotion.

Every opportunity is made available and all due encouragement given to the scientists to conduct research in an independent manner. Scientists of the Department take part in a large number of seminars held both within India and outside. The Department arranges for the publication of their research reports/papers etc. In addition this research work is published in well-known scientific journals. The general position is thus quite satisfactory. However stray cases of frustration cannot be ruled out. Such cases are looked into at appropriate levels and genuine grievances if any redressed.

The normal method of ventilation of grievances through the official channels are available to the scientists. Besides this, there are two bodies known as the Trombay Council and the Trombay Scientific Council. These bodies consist of the senior scientists. Heads of Divisional and Directors of Groups in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and are headed by

the Director, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. These bodies also look into the staff problems and grievances of scientists.

#### **Small-scale Soap and Detergent Industry**

1054. **SHRI P. J. KURIEN:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to non-availability of Soda Ash and Caustic Soda the small-scale soap and detergent industry has been badly hit; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet the requirements of the industry?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA):**

(a) Due to non-availability of soda ash those of the small scale detergent units which have come up after 1977 have been badly hit. Further, shortage of caustic soda since 1979 has hit small scale soap industry also.

(b) Guidelines have been laid down by the Department of Chemicals and Fertilizer for the distribution of indigenous soda ash as per which the manufacturers are to supply Soda Ash to consumers on the basis of off-take in 1977. Besides, the Government also arranged for the import of 20,000 tonnes of soda ash. This quantity has been imported and distributed to the State Governments for supply to the small scale units. Soda Ash imports are allowed under OGL and the import duty on Light soda ash has also been reduced from 75 per cent to 35 per cent. Depending on the demand, the question of further imports is under examination. To overcome the shortage of caustic soda, the Govt. has authorized State Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Corporation of India to import 20,000 tonnes of the material. Out of this 8,000 tonnes have already arrived at the ports. State-wise allocation for 6000 tonnes have already been issued for supply to the public sector and small scale units.

For this 20,000 tonnes of Caustic Soda import, Government have given duty exemption to enable it to be sold at reasonable price.

**Committee on National Energy Policy**

1055. DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH:

SHRI LAKSHMAN MAL-  
LICK:

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA  
BOSE ALLURI:

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up a committee which has been entrusted with the task of formulating a national energy policy with reference to needs, priorities and resources;

(b) if so, when the committee is likely to submit its report;

(c) what are the main features of the report if submitted; and

(d) when the recommendations of the committee is likely to be implemented?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. A Working Group on Energy Policy had been set up by Planning Commission.

(b) The Working Group has submitted its Report.

(c) The Working Group estimated the prospective energy demand in the different sectors of the economy up to the turn of the century and reviewed the present and prospective supplies of energy. In order to bring about a better balance between energy supply and demand, the Working Group has suggested a set of policy prescriptions on the following lines:

(i) the curbing of consumption of oil to the minimum possible level;

(ii) conserving the use of energy by increasing the efficiency of its utilisation;

(iii) reducing the overall energy demand by lowering the intensity of energy consumption in the economy, particularly in the industries sector;

(iv) increased reliance on renewable energy resources; and

(v) reappraisal of our economic development strategies, especially those elements of the strategy which have a direct link to energy consumption like technology choice, location policies, urban growth, mechanisation in agriculture etc. with reference to the new awareness of the energy supply demand in future.

(d) Since the recommendations of the Working Group have far reaching implications, these need careful consideration by all the concerned Ministries, to whom the report has been sent for examination.

**Silent Valley Project**

1056. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Committee on Environmental Planning and Co-ordination had approved the Silent Valley Project in Kerala with the conditions that the State Government would agree to on 18 Point Safeguard Programme; and

(b) if so, details of the 18 Point Safeguard Programme?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b). The National Committee on Environmental Planning and Coordination (NCEPC) had set up a Task Force for Ecological Planning of the Western Ghats. The Task Force in its report strongly recommended that the Silent Valley Hydel Project should be abandoned.

The Task Force suggested certain safeguards in case Government felt that the project cannot be abandoned for any reason. In April, 78, the then Prime Minister accorded his approval