

been declared in 1978 as a monument of national importance and is maintained by Archaeological Survey. The *nahabatkhana*, the park surrounding the palace and antiquities and books exhibited inside the rooms of the palace are under the custody of the Official Trustee of Government of West Bengal who is responsible for their protection. For the preservation of the palace, the Survey is carrying out necessary structural repairs since 1975.

Subsidy for Bio-Gas Plants in Rural Areas

9511. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly set up Commission on Alternative Sources of Energy (CASE) has recommended that the Government should subsidise the setting up of bio-gas plants in rural areas especially in the co-operative sector;

(b) whether the Commission is also credited with the view that for both the household unit and the co-operative unit, a part of the setting up cost should be borne by Government to popularise the use of the bio-gas; and

(c) if so, the steps which Government are taking in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The Commission Alternative Sources of Energy (CASE) considered bio-gas, among other things, as an alternative source of energy at its first meeting held recently.

The Ministry of Agriculture has already decided to undertake a big programme for promotion of bio-gas in the country in rural areas for which an outlay of Rs. 50 crores has been provided for the remaining period of the Sixth Plan. The Ministry's programme envisages, *inter-alia*, provision of subsidy on capital cost of bio-gas plants to the beneficiaries. The details are being worked out.

Increase in Prices of Bread

9512. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the Bread price has been raised in the capital during the last one year and how much was the rise each time—formal and informal;

(b) the reasons for these frequent rise in prices;

(c) whether Government have at any stage considered the desirability of having cost audit of the Bread manufacturers like Britannia Industries made at any time, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps which he proposes to take to arrest this increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) That prices of bread in the Union Territory of Delhi were revised twice during the last one year—first in September, 1980 and next in April, 1981 as under:—

Loaf of	Price prior to 27-9-80	W.e.f. 27-9-80	W.e.f. 11-4-81
200 Grams	Re. 0.55	Re. 0.60	Re. 0.65
400 "	Re. 1.00	Re. 1.10	Rs. 1.20
800 "	Rs. 1.95	Rs. 2.10	Rs. 2.30