

(d) the names of the likely potential partners, which have been identified by the GAIL; and

(e) the nature of the infrastructure envisaged for the transportation and re-gassification of the LNG at receiving stations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) The Gas Authority of India Limited is examining the feasibility of importing LNG for the Southern States. Ennore and Mangalore have been identified as possible locations for the import terminals. Initial imports at the two places could be 2.5 million tonnes per annum. The sources of LNG are yet to be firmed up. GAIL has proposed the formation of a joint venture company with IOC and ONGC as major partners to put up the receiving terminals including storage and re-gassification facilities at an estimated cost of around Rs. 3000 crores.

Research in Atomic Energy

5119. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the areas in which and particularly in the field of agriculture the research in atomic energy is being applied in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to open a centre for providing the above services to the farmers in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) :

(a) Nuclear Energy, in the form of radiation and radioisotopes, is being widely used for agricultural research and development. The main applications are in the following areas :—

1. Development of improved varieties of crop plants such as pulses, oilseeds and other cash crops by inducing genetic variability in seeds by irradiation.
2. Improving fertilizer use efficiency for different soil types.
3. Following the fate and persistence of pesticides and heavy metal pollutants in crops soil and plant products.
4. Improving animal health and production by use of radiation attenuated vaccines.

(b) and (d) There is no proposal with the Government to open any centre for providing such services in the

country. This is because the benefits of research in this area are made available to the farmers at large, through existing institutions like State Agricultural Universities, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and other institutes of the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR). For example, several types of seeds and crop cultivars, developed by mutation breeding are distributed through the State and National Seeds Corporation. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has developed 21 high yielding crop varieties of oil seeds, pulses and cereals produced from radiation induced mutants. These have been released for commercial cultivation by the farmers all over the country.

One of the black gram varieties, TAU-1, is estimated to occupy over 90% of the total area under cultivation of black gram in Maharashtra. The variety titled TAG-24 of groundnut accounts for 9.3% of the total allocation of groundnut breeder seed production for kharif 1995. Research using gamma radiations is also carried out for genetic improvement of banana. Tissue culture derived plants of banana have been distributed to the banana growing farmers through the Maharashtra State Seeds Corporation.

Government Accommodation

5120. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated new norms for allotment of Government accommodation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the same is likely to be effective ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The allotment of General Pool residential accommodation is made as per the provisions of Allotment of Government Residences (General Pool in Delhi) Rules, 1963. No new norms have been formulated, amending the provisions of the Allotment Rules.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Amount spent on Samadhi

5121. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the average amount spent annually on the samadhi of National leaders including former Prime Ministers and Presidents situated in New Delhi, maintained by CPWD;

(b) whether the amount spent on 'Samadhi of Dr. Rajendra Prasad' is comparatively very low; and