

Technologies Developed by CSIR

2462. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CSIR has developed technologies for reducing the post-harvest losses and for generating wealth and employment in the rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) have developed a number of technologies for reducing the post harvest losses and adding value to primary farm produce. Some of these technologies being simple, are extensively utilised for setting up tiny and cottage industries in rural sector which enable generation of wealth and employment in rural areas. The technologies developed are for conservation and processing of fruits & vegetables, cereals & pulses, spices & plantation crops, oilseeds and for infestation control.

Transfer of Assets of Incomplete Power Projects by SEBs

2463. SHRI MAGANTI VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the banks and financial institutions have favoured transferring assets of incomplete power projects by the State Electricity Boards to separate companies floated for their implementation;

(b) if so, whether the banks and financial institutions have informed the Government that such projects would be transferred to the new entity should be treated at par with the independent power producers;

(c) if so, whether the banks have also assured that such projects could also be provided with funds by the institutions; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the Government have agreed to these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (d) According to information available the banks and financial institutions have no proposal presently under consideration with them for transferring of assets of incomplete power projects by the State Electricity Boards to separate companies floated for their implementation.

Yoga Teachers

2464. SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Yoga Teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas had threatened to self-immolate themselves if the injustice meted out to them was not undone;

(b) if so, the details of their grievances; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) One Yoga Teacher had threatened to self immolate on 23.11.1998 if his following grievances were not settled.

i) Confirmation as Yoga Teacher;

ii) Conversion as Physical Education Teacher (PET);

iii) Grant of Selection Higher Scale of pay etc.

He however informed Commissioner on 23.11.98 that he was withdrawing and postponing his self immolation.

(c) There are well defined guidelines rules for Confirmation and Conversion of Yoga Teacher and those Yoga Teachers who fulfil these requirements are Confirmed Converted into PET.

The above referred Yoga Teacher has not been confirmed since a disciplinary case is pending against him. He could not be converted into PET as he does not fulfil the requirements. As regards grant of Selection Higher Scale of pay to Yoga Teachers, the matter is under consideration of the Government.

Modernisation of Laboratories

2465. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the laboratories functioning under Council of Scientific and Industrial Research are equipped with old and obsolete equipments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the money spent on the modernisation of laboratories in the last five years; and

(d) the steps taken to generate internal resources for the modernisation of laboratories?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Over 80% of the laboratories functioning under Council of Scientific and Industrial Research were established over 30 years ago, as a result some of the equipments in these laboratories have become old or obsolete.

(c) Whilst some investment in modernisation of equipment in the laboratories has been going on over the

years, specifically funds have been earmarked for modernisation of equipment and facilities from the year 1995-96. Since then, an amount of Rs.66 crore has been spent on modernisation from the budgetary grant to CSIR. A total allocation of Rs.250 crore has been made by the Govt. for modernisation and upgradation of equipment in the CSIR laboratories over the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(d) In addition to the Government grant to CSIR for modernisation, the laboratories are endeavouring to supplement the resources for modernisation through sponsored, collaborative and grant-in-aid R&D programmes.

Field Trials of Transgenic Hybrid Cotton Seeds

2466. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have permitted some multinational companies to conduct field trials of transgenic hybrid cotton seeds in five States;

(b) if so, the details of the companies and names of States where these companies have been permitted;

(c) whether the concerned States had sought permission before finalising any agreement in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. An Indian Co. M s Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd. (MAHYCO), Mumbai, in which a foreign company MONSANTO has 26% equity, was permitted by the Government to conduct field trial in open environment initially at 5 locations in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Haryana, and subsequently at 40 locations in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The State Governments have been kept informed by the Central Government about the field trials.

Menaka Panel

2467. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Menaka Panel norms may impeded bio-medical research;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein;

(c) the details of action taken proposed to be taken to ensure that bio-medical research is not impeded; and

(d) the present status regarding implementation of the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) The draft of Breeding and Experiments on Animals (Control and Supervi-

sion) Rules, 1998 formulated by the Committee for Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals is being reconsidered as per the suggestions of scientists and others so that they would not impede bio-medical research. The rules are only intended to establish standards for the care and use of animals in scientific research. A Sub-Committee consisting of scientists and representatives of Animal Welfare Organisations has been constituted to work on the draft rules.

Vaccine Application Programme

2468. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are receiving any foreign aid for Vaccine Application Programme (V.A.P.);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any permission has been granted for the trial use of any new vaccine under this programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Under the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme the US side has agreed to provide grants for new projects. So far, no foreign aid has been received under the programme during Phase-III which has just commenced.

(c) to (e) No field trials has been initiated under the programme. The candidate vaccine developed by Indian and US scientists jointly under this programme would undergo clinical trials both in US and India, simultaneously. Two candidate rotaviral vaccines have jointly been developed. The toxicological and Phase-I clinical trials of same have been conducted in the US. The trials in our country would be conducted by the Indian scientists with the approval of the Drug's Controller of India.

[Translation]

Permanent Appointment in CSIR

2469. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Scientists, technical assistants and administrative employees for sponsored projects in the Institutes of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) have been appointed on permanent basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this sort of appointment is against the laws of the CSIR; and

(d) if so, the action to be taken against those found responsible for violating the rules?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.