

Biomass Gasifiers

1789. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are implementing any programme on Biomass Gasifiers (BGs) in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the salient features of the programme;

(c) the number of BG devices installed and power being generated therefrom in the State;

(d) whether the Government propose to increase their number in the State in the near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Biomass Gasifiers Demonstration Programme (BGDP) is being implemented in all States and Union Territories, including Gujarat. The programme provides for financial incentives varying according to different ratings and applications for installation of biomass gasifiers, preparation of detailed project reports for village electrification purpose and implementation charges to State nodal agencies.

(c) A total of 168 biomass gasifier systems has been installed so far in the State of Gujarat for thermal, mechanical and electrical applications and the energy being generated therefrom would be approximately over 45 lakh kilowatt hours equivalent per annum. Besides, a 500 kW gasification technology based power project has been recently commissioned for research and demonstration purpose in village Kothara, district sutch, Gujarat under a separate scheme—National programme on Biomass based Power Generation.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. All State nodal agencies have been requested to develop and send viable proposals for installation of biomass gasifiers for sanctioning during 1989-99 under the Biomass Gasifier Demonstration Programme. However, the nodal agency in Gujarat, namely Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA), has informed that no proposal could be developed so far.

[*Translation*]

Institution of Organic Product

1790. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal of Madhya Pradesh Government seeking foreign assistance to set up an institution for organic products at Mhow and Indore is pending with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in taking decision to this proposal and the time by which a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

[*English*]

Rabi Crops

1791. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government expect a good crop output for the Rabi 1998-99 season based on this year's monsoon;

(b) if so, the extent to which the Rabi crops were destroyed during the rains in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether any assessment of the Rabi output has been made; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The estimates of rabi crops are not yet due. However, despite floods and untimely rains in certain parts of the country, the prospects of rabi crops are brighter on account of favourable weather conditions, better reservoir situation, good pace of sowing and adequate availability of inputs.

Drip Irrigation

1792. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from any State Government to allocate 90% subsidy for the development of agriculture through drip irrigation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Union Government is already implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Use of Plastics in Agriculture under which 90% subsidy is being provided to the Small, Marginal, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Women farmers since 1996-97 for drip irrigation covering all States and Union Territories in the country. The Scheme is being continued during 1997-98 and 1998-99 with the same pattern of assistance.

Optical Fibre Cables

1793. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of optical fibre cables required in Maharashtra and the present supply thereof;

(b) whether there is a long gap between demand and supply of optical fibre cables in the State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to augment the supply of cables at the earliest?