

(a) whether World Bank has declined to support the concept of trading in power and questioned the viability of the proposed Power Trading Corporation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any suggestions has been made by the World Bank to amend mega power policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (d) Government has recently recast the policy on development of mega power projects, which would cater to the power needs of more than one state. The policy, inter alia, provides for the setting up of a Power Trading Corporation (PTC) which would purchase power from the private mega projects and sell it to the concerned State Electricity Boards. No support has been sought from the World Bank for establishing the PTC. However, the World Bank has been approached by Powergrid to finance the services of advisers for mega power projects.

Gene Terminator Technology

3595. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether gene terminator is a technology used to protect plants and crops from pests;

(b) if so, whether this technology has caused damage to India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of field trials conducted in this regard; and

(e) the States where trials were conducted/being conducted ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (e) The gene terminator technology (Control of Plant Gene Expression) would alter the genetic constitution of the seed so that it will not germinate if used for raising the second crop. The technology has not yet been developed to a stage where the seeds incorporating this technology have been field tested. Thus, the question of any damage to India does not arise.

Financial Grant for Higher Studies Abroad

3596. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are giving financial grants to deserving students for higher studies abroad;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the amount earmarked for the purpose for 1998-99 ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) This Ministry does not operate any scheme under which financial grants may be extended to students for higher studies abroad.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Total Literacy Programme

3597. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the total amount allocated to various States for implementation of total literacy programme during the current financial year (till date) and actual utilisation thereof, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : State-wise allocation is not made for Total Literacy Campaigns which are carried out through the aegis of Zilla Saksharata Samities. These Samities are district-level registered societies with the Collector as the Chairman. Funds are released to these Samities on project basis.

Out of a total budget of Rs. 93.97 crores for Adult Education Programme, a sum of Rs. 20 crores has been allocated for Total Literacy Campaigns. A sum of Rs. 7.62 crores has so far been sanctioned under this scheme during the current financial year. A statewise break-up is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Funds Released to Zilla Saksharata Samities for Total Literacy Campaign during 1998-99, till date

(Rs. in lakhs)

State/UT	Amount Sanctioned
1	2
1. Assam	50.00
2. Bihar	56.50
3. Gujarat	25.00
4. Haryana	28.77
5. Himachal Pradesh	17.00
6. Karnataka	16.00
7. Madhya Pradesh	65.00