

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the cryogenic engine will produce 12 tonnes of thrust in the third and crucial stage of GSLV;
- (d) whether this 49 metre 402 tonne GSLV will allow India to launch satellites weighing 2.5 tonnes in the orbit at a height of 36,000 kms; and
- (e) if so, the time by which other cryogenic engines are expected to arrive from Russia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :

(a), (b) and (e) As per the modified agreement between ISRO and Glavkosmos, Russia, Glavkosmos, has to supply a technological mock-up for ground use, a propellant filling mock-up for cryogenic stage filling trials before launch and 7 flight stages.

So far technological mock-up and propellant filling mock-up and one flight stage have been received in India. The first flight stage has been received in September 1998. The remaining stages are expected to be ready every 6 months.

(c) Cryogenic engine carried about 12 tonnes of propellant in the third and crucial stage of Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and produces a thrust of 7.5 tonnes.

(d) GSLV in the initial development flights will carry spacecrafts of mass of about 1600 kg. to geostationary transfer orbits (175×36000 km.). This capability will progressively improve to 2000 kg class in operational flights.

[Translation]

Funds under MPLADS

3329. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether funds are being made available by the Union Government to MPs under the MPLADS are not adequate for carrying out developmental work in their constituencies;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to prescribe any separate fund for Members of Parliament in implementing the Employment Assurance Schemes, and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the said fund is likely to be announced; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) As per announcement made by the Government in the Parliament, the allocation of Rs. 1 crore per year of MPLADS funds stands increased to Rs. 2 crore per year per M.P.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Visa Policy

3330. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any uniform visa policy regarding issue of visa to the peoples of neighbouring countries;
- (b) the number of neighbouring countries with whom India has free entry without visa;
- (c) whether the Government propose to add some more countries in the list of free entry to give boost to trade and commerce;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the countries with whom negotiations are going on in this field; and
- (f) the response of those countries to the proposals of Indian Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The Government formulates the visa policies vis-a-vis individual neighbouring countries taking into consideration all the relevant requirements including reciprocity.

- (b) India has visa free entry with two neighbouring countries – Bhutan and Nepal.
- (c) At present there is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.
- (d) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Hike in Prices of Potato and Onion

3331. SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI :

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have set up any Committee or Commission to identify the reasons for sharp hike in the prices of potato and onion during the last three years and to punish the guilty persons;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have any scheme for estimation on fruit, vegetables and minor crops;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the funds earmarked for the Ninth Five Year Plan for the purpose; and
- (f) the extent to which it is likely to help in collecting the information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):