

(b) the total energy production and the reasons for not tapping the full potential; and

(c) the steps likely to be taken by the Government to tap the entire potential in the State of Kerala?

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) A wind energy potential of 175 MW has been estimated for Kerala. Nine potential sites have so far been identified in the State.

(b) and (c) A 2.025 MW demonstration wind power project has been established at Kanjikode which has generated 6.53 million units of energy, upto 31st March, 1998. Commercial development is yet to take place in the State despite the Central incentives available for wind power development. The State Government has been requested to introduce an attractive policy for commercial projects, as per the Ministry's Guidelines. Other measures requested include speedier allotment of land at windy locations, and creation of adequate power evacuation facilities at identified potential sites.

Support Price of Cloves

79. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision regarding minimum support price for cloves;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The Government every year announces Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for major agricultural produce to ensure the remunerative prices to growers with view to encourage investment in agriculture. The Government decides on MSP for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and views of the State Governments and Central Ministries. The Horticultural produce like cloves, apples, potatoes, fruits, vegetables and other minor crops which have localised production and are perishable in nature are covered under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). Under this scheme, the State Governments send specific proposals as and when the prices fall below remunerative levels. The scheme is implemented for a particular period to procure specific quantity at a pre-determined price. The losses, if any, are shared mostly on 50 : 50 basis between Centre and the State Governments.

Utilisation of Interest Earned on Grant under MPLADS

80. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the interest accrued on the grants under MPLADS could be utilised for development works by the M.P.; and

(b) if so the instructions/guidelines issued in this regard?

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) and (b) At present all Deputy Commissioners/Collectors have been instructed not to utilise the interest amount for any purpose. Issue of utilisation of interest on MPLADS is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Under Ground Water

81. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether availability of water in wells and tubewells or reduced every year during the recent past;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated by the Government to check the fall in level of underground water; and

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) As per the survey conducted by the Central Ground Water Board, a state of both rise and fall in the level of ground water has been observed in various parts of the country. Decline in the level of ground water in some over-exploited regions of the country has the effect of reducing availability of water of wells/tubewells.

(b) and (c) Development and use of ground water is planned, financed and implemented by the State Governments. Steps taken by the Union Government to check the decline in the level of ground water include:

- (i) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on studies on Recharge of ground water in Maharashtra, Karnataka, NCT of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh in coordination with concerned State Governments.
- (ii) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.