

the occasion of golden jubilee year and the sources from which these proposals have been received;

(b) the number of proposals accepted, rejected and the number of films made; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid delay in the work depicting achievements through films and to make films as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Four proposals have been received by the Films Division to make documentaries depicting departmental achievements on the occasion of Golden Jubilee year. Three of them are from the Ministry of External Affairs for production of video films on the titles "Development in Energy", "Development in Agriculture" and "Development in Industry". The fourth one is from the Ministry of Home Affairs (Department of Official Language) for production of film on 'Rajabhasha Hindi Ke Prachar Prasar Sambhandit film'. It has been decided to produce the above films.

(c) No delay is anticipated in completion of the above films.

Construction of Flyover

2457. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the places in the country where flyovers are being constructed in the railway lines falling on National Highways;

(b) whether the Government are considering to construct a flyover near Maksi Railway Station on Ujjain-Bhopal railway line falling on Agra-Mumbai National Highway; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Information is not maintained Highway-wise.

(b) and (c) A Road Over Bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 51 A at Maksi on Ujjain - Bhopal was approved in the Budget of 1987-88. The State Govt. had not approved the drawing till 1993 due to which the work had to be dropped from the Railways' Work Programme of 1994-95.

Maithon Thermal Power Station

2458. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up Maithon right bank Thermal Power Station;

(b) whether the Overseas Economics Finance Corporation of Japan has allocated funds for this project

but the Government has transferred this amount for another project in U.P.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Various alternatives for funding the execution of Maithon Right Bank Thermal Project of the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) have been considered including position it to the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of the Government of Japan. OECF has not allocated any funds for the project so far.

Fluoride affected Water in Rajasthan

2459. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that various types of ailments are spreading among the villagers of Tonk district in Rajasthan due to excess contents of fluoride in drinking water;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking any action in this regard for a long time; and

(c) the time by which remedial action is likely to be taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) At the instance of Government of India, the National Industrial Development Corporation Limited has prepared and submitted a Project Report on Pilot Project for providing safe drinking water to 171 fluoride affected villages of block Tonk in Rajasthan at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.38 crore. The proposed Pilot project has already been considered by the Government of India and sent to the State Government of Rajasthan for their comments/suggestions for further action in the matter.

[English]

Development of Scientific Establishments

2460. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need to develop science and technology to promote the causes of scientists and also to develop scientific establishments;

(b) whether the Government are laying any emphasis in that regard; and

(c) if so, the specific plan formulated thereon for Ninth Plan and the steps taken to implement the measures proposed to be adopted in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Development of science and technology is encouraged to gain knowledge of the natural processes and their governing laws. A part of the knowledge so gained results in technology to benefit the society. The cause of scientists is served when scientific establishments are developed to create congenial conditions to enable them to pursue their ideas.

(b) and (c) Government has been encouraging the development of science and technology in the country. Since independence, there has been a gradual and significant increase in Government support for science and technology. A number of S & T agencies and establishments have been created to promote S&T efforts in the respective areas.

The approach to science and technology development during the 9th Plan has been drafted to include the nurturing of scientific and technological research and manpower, creating centres of excellence, providing more autonomy to scientific institutions and laboratories including their modernization and networking, developing core technological strengths in key sectors, involvement of socio-economic Ministries for S&T inputs and involvement of Voluntary agencies in science and society related programmes, emphasis on technology management and marketing and issues related to Intellectual Property Rights and patenting, etc. Some initiatives already undertaken are the matching rupee-to-rupee scheme and funding for technology through the Technology Development Board. The recent new initiative is the announcement of Swarna Jayanti fellowships for basic research to support outstanding scientists to enable them to do world class level science.

[Translation]

Renewable Energy Institute

2461. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Renewable Energy Institute; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Scientific Devices for Rural Areas

2462. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether various low cost devices, capable of being used in rural areas/homes, were recently demonstrated by Department of Science & Technology;

(b) if so, the details of these devices, their cost and the places where they are available; and

(c) the steps being taken to popularise these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the devices recently demonstrated are as follows :

Sl. No.	Name of the Device	Place/Instt. where Demonstrated	Cost as per final technical Report of the Institute
1.	Clay Emitter	Centre of Science for villages, Magansangrahalaya, Wardha	Rs. 0.25 per piece
2.	Water Mills	Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organ. Gwar Choki, Chamoli	Rs. 25,000/- per kilo Watt
3.	Carcass Cooker	Society for Economic and Social Studies Saket, New Delhi	(a) 150 Kg (SS) Rs. 45,000/- (b) 150 Kg (MS) Rs. 35,000/- (c) 250 Kg (SS) Rs. 75,000/-
4.	Plata Type Water Lifting Pump	Nb Institute of Rural Technology, 52, Shakuntala Road, Agartala	Rs. 28,000/-

(c) The information of these devices are being disseminated to development departments/agencies of the Government S&T field groups and other voluntary organisations for popularisation.

[English]

Guidelines for Briefing Media

2463. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to issue fresh guidelines relating to levels of officials who are allowed to brief the media on matters of policy;