

to find out the ways as to how best we can supply LPG to all the people. For that purpose, as hon. Kumari Mamata has mentioned, why should we not reduce the excise duty on it so that the common people can get the advantage? The impression that only the rich people are using it should be removed altogether. The common people are getting its advantage. If 'kisans' are not given this facility, they should also be given this facility but that does not necessarily mean that those who are having this facility are the rich people. I would like to know the percentage of the rich people who are having the LPG connections.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I can only say that about 3.8 per cent of the people living below poverty line are enjoying this facility.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Next questions.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You had already agreed to have only six supplementary questions.

[Translation]

Six supplementaries have been asked. Now the next question.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have just agreed for six supplementaries.

#### National Council for Science and Technology

\*542 PROF. \*P.J. KURIEN : Will the MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Council of Science and Technology is popularising science and technology;

(b) if so, the details of the work being done;

(c) the achievement so far in this regard;

(d) whether such councils have also been set up in the States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) to (e) National Council for Science & Technology Communication is popularising Science & Technology through a host of programmes. These programmes include developing, adapting and promoting diverse communication methodologies to popularise S&T in the country and inculcating scientific temper among the people. The

programmes include projects involving large number of common people, for example, the Bharat Jan Gyan Vigyan Jatha-1992, ECLIPSE 1995 programme; and the National Children's Science Congress. Through these programmes, it has been possible to reach large sections of society to create awareness. National Council for Science & Technology Communication executes its programmes in different States through State Science & Technology Departments and also through over one hundred Non-Government Organisations spread across the country. States also have their own State Science & Technology Councils who perform diverse functions including Science Popularisation.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I thank the hon. Minister for the Statement.

One of the main functions of the National Council for Science and Technology Communication is to inculcate scientific temper and scientific outlook among the people. Our Constitution provides that it shall be the duty of every citizen to develop scientific temper. But unfortunately now in this country the scientific temper and scientific outlook are on the decline. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No side talks please.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : You are the people who fabricate... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Why does he unnecessarily interfere ?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : You know that the Marxists are dogmatic people, superstitious people... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : They are unnecessarily provoking Prof. Kurien. Why do they provoke him?... (Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I will stick to my question if they do not interfere. You please control him... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, please, Prof. Kurien.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Unfortunately this scientific temper and outlook are on the decline in the country. Even the scientists are not out of this. Of course, superstitions among the political leaders are on the increase. But it is clearly mentioned in the Constitution that it shall be the duty of every citizen to develop scientific outlook and a scientific temper. Therefore, it is the duty of the Government to devise programmes which will enable the people to develop a scientific outlook. I have gone through the programmes which have been chalked out by the National Council for Science and Technology Communication. The hon. Minister has given it in the Statement. They are mainly aimed at creating awareness and spreading science and technology.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please ask the question.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I am coming to the question. It is a very important question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He is not asking any question.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Why do you worry about it ? Let the hon. Minister reply.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Therefore, we miss the thrust. The thrust of the programme should be to inculcate a scientific temper and a scientific outlook among the people.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would have a look at the whole programme and whether he is prepared to redevise and recast this programme so that the thrust will be scientific temper and outlook and discarding of superstitious.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I am very grateful to the hon. Member for asking this very important question and for giving a very high priority to the need for a scientific temper in the country.

The National Council for Science and Technology Communication, as the hon. Member knows, has programmes like the Bharat Jan Gyan Vigyan Jatha where a lot of people are involved in terms of promoting scientific attitudes. We also have the National Children's Science Congress. They take up specific scientific events, for example, the Eclipse so that a scientific approach towards the eclipse is created. We are now reconstituting the National Council for Science and Technology Communication. I agree with the hon. Member that this is an issue which we have to look into it in an unanimous way. I assure the hon. Members that if the hon. Members give any concrete proposals, I assure them that we will give them a very high priority.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I thank the hon. Minister for the reply.

Secondly, in the ministry's report it is said that two important ingredients necessary are communicators and development of software. He had admitted in the Report that adequate number of communicators have not been trained and proper software has not been developed. In view of that I would like to ask him whether he is prepared to consider a suggestion that these programmes be implemented through educational institutions in the rural areas so that the teachers in the schools and colleges can act as communicators. By doing so, university can save some funds and the colleges can also, in turn, get benefited.

Further, we talk about creation of awareness and ignore the contribution of ancient India towards science. Ancient India has great contribution towards science. You

are aware how SHOONYA or 'zero' came into existence. It was an Indian contribution. Even the Arabic numerals are an Indian contribution. They were, transferred to Europe by Arabs. But their origin is India. But these things are not propagated. The people are not made aware of the contribution of ancient India towards science.

Will you include this subject also in the programme ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that in the programmes that are developed for both Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatha as well as the National Children's Science Congress or the People's Science Network, a lot of emphasis is placed on creating software, on creating kits and on creating book. We have had this programme reviewed by a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Qasim. We are planning to look into all those suggestions for making these programmes more effective.

We have also sponsored films. I will give you an example. There was a very popular film called **Bharat Ki Chhap**. You may recall that that does have an emphasis on ancient Indian science also. I would like to inform the hon. Member that we give very high priority to this. Recently we have released a drug called **Memory Plus** which is based on "Grandmother said, use Brahmi oil for cooling your brain". Our scientists have found out that Ducticimite which is a protein in Brahmi, when it is used on a particular part of the brain, it enhances memory. We have introduced that drug.

SHRI E. AHAMED : It should be made available first to the Members of Parliament.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, it will be the privilege of the Council of Science and Industrial Technology to give Memory Plus. I can personally say that having crossed the age of 55 it is a very useful drug. We are expecting to have a national and the world market. It has, in fact, been marketed. But it is very important that our people see the great strengths that we had, and our relations with environment. This is a part of our programmes. This is a programme in which all suggestions are welcome. We want more and more people, including schools and colleges to participate. I want to assure the hon. Member that both Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatha as well as Children's Science Congress work through the schools. Once a year, we bring a lot of school children to Delhi. We organise a number of programmes. But I agree with him that a lot more can be done anti should be done. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I have represented to the hon. Minister that Brahmi oil should be supplied to the marxists !

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has already mentioned it!

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.G. SWELL : If I am not mistaken, the Minister who has answered the question is a Professor as he suffers from all the ailments of Professors of lecturing instead of answering questions.

Having regard to our present situation, our security environment and our isolation in the United Nations on the CIBI, foremost in our minds should be science and technology and the development of our missiles.

We have developed Prithvi, although we have not integrated it with the Armed Forces. I do not know what the situation of Agni is. The greatest programme before us is to put our own satellite into the geosynchronous orbit. (*Interruptions*) Some time ago, there was a question of getting cryogenic engines or cryogenic technology from Russia, but we said that we would do it on our own. I would like to know what the progress is in the development of our own cryogenic technology.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, the hon. Member is quite right, I am a professor, in fact, I am an unashamed professor. I think, the kind of question that has been asked does need a detailed reply.

As far as the question on missiles and cryogenic rockets is concerned, I handle the parliamentary work related to Space separately and I want to assure the hon. Member that top priority is being given. However, if he likes, he can ask a separate question and we can give a detailed answer on that.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, I am raising a question which is a little fundamental in nature which pertains to this and I am very happy that a person of the caliber of Prof. Alagh is incharge of this Department.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what the total cost that the country bears every year on science and technology generally and what the parameters are that we have laid down to find out the efficacy of this amount that we spend on it. I would also like to know whether we do any scientific audit. Do we do any social or technology audit-not the financial audit-to make sure that there is a relationship between the amount that we spend and the output that we get from this amount that we spend ?

Sir, the NGOs that the hon. Minister has mentioned are hundred in nature and are also involved in the mission that the Government is currently carrying on. I would like to know what the total percentage of expenditure is that these NGOs get out of the total Budget of the Government and what the amount we spend departmentally is. Are we planning to expand this programme, that is undertaken and as has been mentioned by Prof. Kurien, to rural areas where there is a possibility of receiving scientific approach more because of their wish to learn on these lines ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : As far as the scientific communication programme is concerned, last year we spent a little more than two crores of rupees. Most of it was spent through voluntary agencies, through schools and others because the Government itself does not spend much money on this.

We have not had a detailed audit done because the programme really covers millions, in fact, crores of children and other people are also involved in it. We have had assessments done on a partial basis and the results seem to be encouraging in the sense that the programmes do have an exposure on the people and a fairly substantial proportion of them seem to be influenced by the ideas given. But I must admit that these assessments are only in some selected urban areas.

I agree with the hon. Member that we need to concentrate more on rural areas, although he may remember that the Bharat Jan Gyan Vigyan Jatha really travels through areas and there were more than three hundred districts which were covered by it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the National Institute for Science and Technology Studies is doing very good work in regard to technological assistance to rural artisans. There is a State level Advisory Committee in the State of West Bengal and I happen to be the Chairman of that Advisory Committee. Previously, Prof. Nirmal Chatterjee was the Chairman of that Committee.

This programme is now confined to one district, that is, Bankura, where there are a large number of artisans. There are two such districts in our country. One such district is Bankura, where there are a large number of rural artisans.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether this programme can be extended to other neighbouring districts so that the rural artisans of those districts can be assisted in regard to modernisation of their technology by helping them with modern science and technology ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, the programmes for support to artisans are not a part of the science communication stream but there are a number of institutions in the Department of Science and Technology. The Department of Science and Technology itself gives support for that kind of research which makes technology available to small farmers. We have a number of research proposals which we have funded in the Eastern Region including the State of Bengal. Generally we are very supportive to extending technology to artisans and to small farmers. If there are any specific proposals, the Department will be very happy to look into them.

[Translation]

SHRI NANDKUMAR SAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a question from the hon. Minister through you that the Scientific outlook prevalent in ancient India was described by sages in Shastras in many ways as there is rule to coruscate the sun after taking bath. Similarly Tulsi is planted with the same purpose. The plant of Tulsi is such that it emanates oxygen day and night. Are you taking any measure to propagate this type of Scientific outlook described in our old religious books so that the whole world is acquainted with this knowledge.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, the Delhi government is not giving power to Lok Sabha...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, we give precedence to those who have undertaken research on this outlook and gave it a scientific touch. As the hon. Members know that some were mentioning Brahma. We have started a research programme on it. We will do experiment with Dabur and Zhandu and try to bring before the world our strength of the ancient India. For this we have started work in the eighth plan and we will carry this work in the ninth plan also to increase this historical strength.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mantriji, I also would like to ask a supplementary. Can I, besides Tulsi, get information or such oil can be prepared which may prove helpful in maintaining decorum of the House.

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Next Question 543 ....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Six supplementaries are already over.

[Translation]

The Seventh I have asked. Sorry.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : This is very important you are allowing...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have not allowed. We have shifted to the next question.

#### Counter Guarantees for Power Projects

\*543. SHRI \*SONTOSH MOHAN DEV;  
SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Fast Track Power Projects involving Foreign participation for which counter guarantee has been given by the Union Government;

(b) the names of private projects not involving any foreign financial collaboration given counter guarantee so far;

(c) the amount of counter guarantee involved in each case;

(d) whether the Government have fixed any deadline to give counter guarantees to all projects put in fast track category;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) The Union Government have so far given counter guarantee to the following Fast Track power projects involving foreign participation :

1. Dabhol CCGT (740 MW) of Dabhol Power Company.
2. Ib Valley TPS (420 MW) of M/s. AES, USA.
3. Jegurupadu GBPP (216 MW) of M/s. GVK Industries.

(b) None.

(c) Dabhol : Liability of the Government for fixed charges and energy charges shall not exceed Rs. 1500 crores in a financial year subject to suitable adjustments on account of inflation, change in taxation and rupee devaluation. In case of termination of the Power Purchase Agreement by the Company, the guarantee will be limited only to the outstanding foreign debt which is further limited to US\$ 300 million.

Ib Valley : Liability of the Government for fixed charges and energy charges is limited to Rs. 667 crores in a financial year and on 1.4.1996 and each subsequent