

legislation aimed at the implementation of the biodiversity convention; and

(d) the reaction of the Government to the genetic patenting ?

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) During an international symposium titled "Bimal K. Bachhawat Symposium on Genome Research Emerging Ethical, Legal, Social & Economic Issues" organised by the National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad from 22nd-25th May, 1997 at Goa, leading biomedical and social scientists, lawyers, journalists from India and some experts from abroad participated. The objectives, origin, current achievements and societal implications of the genome research were discussed. The concern was on the impact of genome research on clinical subjects as well as on population with special reference to the respective countries; and how to draw guidelines for deriving benefits or stopping misuse of research findings.

The recommendations of the symposium would be brought to the notice of the concerned authorities. It was also the aim to create public awareness on the subject.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests had organised national level consultations of representatives of State Governments, experts and others in New Delhi on 10th June, 1997 to discuss inter alia, the issues relevant to developing a legislation on biodiversity. The consultations acknowledged the complexities in developing a legislation on the subject and suggested that a broad and simple legislation on biodiversity should be formulated with possibilities of delegated legislation. This legislation should be an umbrella legislation with flexibility and transparency. This would cover aspects of gene patenting, definitions and other IPR related issues.

Development of Panchayats

376. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared special schemes for all round development of Panchayats in Scheduled Areas as envisaged under Article 243 and the Central Act relating to Fifth Scheduled Areas;

(b) if so, the total number of Panchayats at all level, State-wise particularly in Fifth scheduled Areas; and

(c) the details of special schemes prepared by the States having Scheduled Areas for development of Scheduled Tribes there ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNIDU) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The concerned State Governments are required to legislate and take action for all round development of Panchayats in the Fifth Schedule Areas in consonance with the 'Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996. Details of schemes prepared by the States having Scheduled Areas for development of Scheduled Tribes these are not centrally maintained.

[Translation]

Ozone Layers

377. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the studies conducted by the Indian Team in the Antarctica region since 1981 indicate any change in the Oznoe layer;

(b) whether some holes have developped into the Ozones layer over the world causing the danger of ultraviolet radiation; and

(c) the details of the studies conducted in the Antarctica region and the amount spent by India thereon so far ?

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) and (b) Yes, Sir. The ozone observations indicate a decrease in ozone in the stratosphere between 12 to 21 km every year during September-October over Antarctica Region. Since ozone layer absorbs ultraviolet radiation, the ozone-hole has led to increased amount of solar ultraviolet radition reaching earth.

(c) India Meteorological Department (IMD) is participating in Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica since 1981. Vertical Profile of atmospheric ozone over Antarctica has been made using Indian ozonesondes. Analysis of these observations has confirmed the existence of ozone-hole. The total expenditure incurred by India Meteorological Department is around Rs. 50.0 lakhs for its scientific

programme including ozone measurement in Antarctica since 1981.

[English]

Exploration and Extraction of Minerals

378. SHRI DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the air survey work has been expedited to boost exploration and extraction of minerals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the exploration work of minerals has been assigned to some foreign companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) Geological Survey of India (GSI) is engaged in airborne geophysical surveys to boost exploration of mineral deposits including hydrocarbons and groundwater. The airborne survey maps are also utilised to refine the geological maps. Multisensor and aeromagnetic surveys using GSI's Twin Otter Aircraft has been taken up in parts of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh covering a total of 1,91,929 line km. from 1988 till June, 96. There are three types of airborne surveys conducted by GSI (i) multi-sensor surveys in selected blocks using Twin Otter Aircraft to GSI; (ii) Aero-magnetic survey for refinement of geological database and oil exploration by GSI's Twin Otter Aircraft; and (iii) Regional Aeromagnetic surveys under National Programme.

In order to give further impetus to exploration through aerial survey the Government has issued guidelines in October, 1996 under which large areas upto 5000 sq.km. for a single Prospecting Licence Subject to the condition that total aggregate area held by one single Company should not exceed 10,000 sq.kms. for the whole country can be granted. The grant of large area for such aerial prospecting is linked with schemes for relinquishment and to a minimum expenditure commitment or specific physical targets. The Government has recently granted 9 (Nine) Prospecting Licences for large areas to 3 Companies (Hindustan Zinc Ltd./multinational companies.

[English]

Power Production in Private Sector

379. SHRI N. DENNIS :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have considered to review a Private Sector Power Policy which has failed to take of in any significant manner;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the same;

(c) whether any overhauling of power policy is being considered; and

(d) if so, the main changes that are being considered ?

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) and (b) In the context of scarcity of resources in the State/Central public sector for capacity addition in power generation, a policy to encourage private sector participation was formulated in 1991 and is currently under implementation. The policy is reviewed from time to time to make it more effective.

(c) At present, the Government is not contemplating any overhauling of the private power policy.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting Up of Power Project with German Assistance

380. SHRI SURESH PRABHU :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the major German power giants have offered to set up two show case 1000 MW power projects in India with German Export credit at competitive tariff rates and fuel supply arrangements;

(b) if so, whether the Government have accepted the offer;