

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : He says that Rs. 300 crore were spent on the first four satellites but the question is about all the satellites....(Interruptions).

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I would like to tell hon. Members...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : More than Rs. 1000 crore have been spent on all the satellites. How can he say Rs. 300 crore ? Each satellite has cost Rs. 300 crore. What reply he is giving ? The hon. Prime Minister is not responding, it is his portfolio.

[English]

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The hon. Member wants information on 25 satellites...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Have you received the cryogenic engines and technology from Russia in order to launch a satellite into the geosynchronous orbit? ... (Interruptions). There is no time for you to give reply to my question. You should be relevant.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The hon. Member wants information on 25 satellites. Out of 25 satellites, we have got four satellites with major import. They were got fabricated abroad. They have been got from abroad. (Interruptions).

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Did you understand my question?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : They do not have this technology.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Have you got a cryogenic engine from Russia as promised in order to launch the satellite into the geo-synchronous orbit? I think you did not understand my question.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Can I answer that question?....(Interruptions).

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Do you know what the cryogenic engine is for ? Everybody talks and nobody cares about it.. (Interruptions).

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : If the hon. Member sits down, I will answer that question.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION

New Drugs to Treat Cancer

*204. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Department of Science and Technology, the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad and the Ranbaxy Research Laboratories have signed an agreement to jointly undertake a project for development of new drugs to treat cancer; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

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) Yes Sir.

(b) The Agreement was signed in May, 1996 to undertake jointly a project to develop a new drug for treating cancer. The agreement incorporates clauses such as modalities of collaboration, financial arrangements, duration of the project, monitoring of the project.

The estimated expenditure on the project is of the order of Rs. 89.70 lakhs.

Clearance to Power Projects

*205. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) Whether a large number of power projects including fast track projects are languishing far behind the schedule in the process of final clearance of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise and State-wise;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure speedy clearance and timely implementation; and

(d) the proposed projected and actual foreign investment in power sector ?

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 (c). For 29 power projects including the fast track Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Station, detailed project reports have been received by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for obtaining the statutory techno-economic clearance. A list of such projects is enclosed in the given statement. For accordng techno-economic clearance, CEA has sought details of other clearances inputs from the project-developers. For public sector projects, the investment approval is usually accorded after the techno-economic clearance is granted, while for private projects, the final Power Purchase Agreements and Central Government Counter Guarantees wherever already assured, are given thereafter. Several steps have been initiated to streamline the procedures for grant of various clearances including techno-economic clearance by CEA.

(d) 50 expressions of interest from foreign investors, including NRIs, involving an investment of about Rs. 1,40,000 crores have been received and are under various stages of consideration