

Government has taken pains to find out from the thermal power stations, how many such cases are there and what the remedies.

Whatever guidelines have been given are under the provisions of the Act. We are not interested in knowing the provisions of the Act. We are interested in the implementation of these provisions.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Sir, we have received almost all information from all State Electricity Boards. The Maharashtra State Electricity Board has recently conducted a survey in June 1994. They have told us that there was no incident, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh Electricity Boards have also reported 'no incidents.' Similar answers have been given by the remaining States.

In addition to that, again I will instruct all the concerned State Electricity Board authorities to review the prevalence of such diseases.

[Translation]

#### Satellite Survey

\*104. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Satellite survey of the flood and drought affected areas in National Capital Territory of Delhi has been conducted/proposed to be conducted;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

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 (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

#### STATEMENT

(a) to (c). A flood inundation map of Yamuna river near Delhi was prepared using Indian Remote Sensing Satellite data of December 14, 1995. currently, a project entitled "Yamuna Morphological Studies" is being executed jointly by Department of Space (DOS) and Central Water Commission (CWC), which includes study of the flood situation of Yamuna river near Delhi. Remote sensing satellite data is being currently used for drought assessment and monitoring in eleven states of the country which are mostly agriculturally important and vulnerable to drought, under a project funded by Department of Agriculture and Co-operation and as such, this project does not cover the National Capital Territory of Delhi. However, during the Ninth Plan period, this project is expected to the entire country which would include the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wanted to know from the hon. Minister as to why Delhi has not been included in the areas selected for conducting satellite survey. Lakhs of people suffer losses and people living on the banks of Yamuna are rendered homeless whenever floods occur in Delhi. The people living on the Yamuna banks suffer losses of life and property and their livestock perishes. In his reply the hon. Minister has stated that a satellite survey of Delhi has been conducted but in the very first and last line of the reply it has been stated clearly.

[English]

"this project does not cover the National Capital Territory of Delhi."

[Translation]

I would like to know as to why he is making self contradictory statements at the same time. Does this survey costs cores of rupees? Why this project was not included in the Eighth Five Year Plan?

[English]

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, if the hon. Member looks at the reply, he will find that as far as floods are concerned, for Yamuna, the Yamuna Morphological Study has been completed and the results are available for action. As far as droughts are concerned - the question relates both to floods and droughts - the Space Department is doing a special study for drought affected areas. Those are identified by the Planning Commission. They are in different areas and Delhi is not a part of that.

Now, there is also a separate proposal to set up State Level centres. Such centres are already there in a number of States. It is our intention to extend that to all the States in the Ninth Five Year Plan. I hope that clarifies the position.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my point was that this project was not so costly that it could not be included in the Eighth Five Year Plan. He said that it would be taken up in the Ninth Five Year Plan with the rest of the country. During the floods last time 4 lakhs houses were damaged in Delhi and almost 25 thousand cattle were dead. Will the Government include Delhi in the project when this figure reaches 10 lakh. What is his parameter for its selection in the Ninth five Year Plan and not in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, I would like to clarify that in view of the flood problem in Delhi a study of space for river Yamuna is being conducted. Results of this study is available with the State Governments. In regard to the drought prone areas.....

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Delhi is not a drought prone area and my question relates to flood problems.

- SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Both the problems of flood and drought have been mentioned in the question and therefore, I am replying to both the problems. A Morphological survey has been conducted on Yamuna with the help of satellite facility and the facility is available with the State Government. I am glad to say that our scientists have done it with the help of remote sensing within 6 days. The State Governments set up remote sensing centres at their levels for detailed use of these facilities through the remote sensing centre of a nearby State. We will provide assistance if Delhi Government intends to use it during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, no meeting has ever been held or any discussion held between the Government of Delhi and the Central Government in this regard. There is no other forum where it could be discussed then what would be the impact of this report on Delhi.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : We have given the information to State Governments through the Department of space just as the Urban and Slum Department of Delhi asked for information. Jawaharlal Nehru University has prepared a project for the ridge area in Delhi. The Department of Space has provided assistance for utilisation of water there. I am glad to tell the hon. Member that the first check dam has already been constructed there and during last monsoon water filled in it which has gone below the earth now. This will benefit that area. Municipal Corporation of Delhi has given a proposal to solve this problem by conducting an aerial survey in place of satellite survey. It is being discussed with them. This project will cost rupees two crores.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk-Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wanted to know from the hon. Minister as to why Delhi has not been included in the areas selected for conducting satellite survey lakhs of people suffer losses and people living on the banks of Yamuna are rendered homeless. floods occur in Delhi. The people living on the Yamuna banks suffer losses of life and property and their livestock perishes. In his reply the hon. Minister has said that a satellite survey of Delhi has been conducted but in the very first and last line of the reply it has been stated clearly,

[English]

"this project does not cover the National Capital Territory of Delhi."

[Translation]

The Department of Space will keep ready its aircraft at their disposal. But it is hoped that study will also now be taken up. The information from remote sensing satellite is available at six metres. And we can obtain

this information every sixth day. If that too is needed by the State Governments we will provide all help to them, if they request us.

DR. ASIM BALA : Remote Sensing Satellite is a good mechanism to identify unknown areas. Here it is mentioned that remote Sensing Satellites could be utilised for assessing drought and agricultural areas. I would like to know what the other area of operation is. That is one. Secondly, is there a proposal to help the State Governments, if they approach the Central Government for help?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The hon. Member is quite right. Our Remote Sensing Satellite are some of the most advanced in the world today. They are being used for oceanographic studies, for cartographic applications, in geographical information systems for local planning, for climate and atmospheric studies.

Also, I am very happy to inform him that there is a lot of global interest in the data collected by our Remote Sensing Satellites. The U.S.A. based company, M/s EOSAT has entered into a commercial agreement with the Department of Space for the dissemination of data from Indian Remote Sensing Satellites and marketing other Indian remote sensing capabilities outside India also. As the hon. Member knows, Remote Sensing Satellites have been used for drought, for monitoring the water levels in our different dams and for a number of other operations.

DR. ASIM BALA : I have asked another question, that I have put as question number two.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have allowed Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to know from the Government, that in the reply given by the Minister now, it is written that at present remote sensing satellite data is being used in the analysis and monitoring of drought, in eleven such States, which are chiefly agriculturally important and sensitive to drought, under a project conducted through financial assistance from Agriculture and Co-operative Department. I want to know the States included in this project. Whether Rajasthan is included or not? There are deserts also in Rajasthan. Now there are also flash floods in Rajasthan, causing heavy loss of lives and property. Rajasthan is also sensitive to drought. Large areas are under drought. Has any study been done in this regard and whether any conclusions have been drawn?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, the areas that are drought prone in Rajasthan...

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Which are the States and whether Rajasthan is included or not? If yes, what are the conclusions of their study?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The number of drought prone districts identified is 246. This includes the drought

prone districts in all the States. Information is obtained for all these districts through the remote sensing satellite. These drought prone areas are in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Orissa. The information there, at the District Cropping and Cutting Experiments, of the Agriculture Department is three-four years old. But, we get this information which sooner through satellites and this is passed on to the Agriculture Ministry...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : But, you have not told the conclusion.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : We have a project. One is, collecting information regarding the water bodies, such as lakes, ponds, for immediate problems like drought. Second is about the Cropping Pattern. Information regarding this is given rather early to the State Governments. If you see the report of 1987-88 drought-which is ready-it will be seen that information is simultaneously available, regarding drought. On the other level there is National Natural Resource Management Programme. Under this programme, through the satellite, assistance is sought for the long term solution to the land and water problems, of these districts. Because, from this it is known as to which are the places where water can be stored. The places under forest. And the ways to increase this forest cover.

[English]

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : Sir, after a lengthy answer we are more confused than enlightened. We are proud that the satellite technology has improved tremendously and they are supplying sufficient information. If so, why is it that the country is prone to floods and droughts? Since the technology is so advanced, why is the country prone to such floods, droughts and earthquakes? Why are the State Governments not in a position to meet the calamities? Would you please specify these two questions and answer them?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The satellites are a help in solving the basic problems that the hon. Member is talking about. Information which can take sometimes months to become available, becomes available over a period of one or two weeks. As the hon. Member knows, satellites by themselves, cannot solve the problems of droughts and floods. Those problems need to be solved in terms of the steps which have been indicated in our Five Year Plans and the various flood control commission Reports and other Reports. The satellite imagery is a major aid for resolving these problems. I would request the hon. Member to appreciate the efforts of the Department of Space in that light.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : Sir, the hon. Minister has not answered my question as to why the State Governments are not in a position to meet the challenges.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have asked your supplementary. No second supplementary.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very good question. The Minister has said that in the Ninth Plan, there is a possibility of extending this project in the entire country. In which the National Capital Region of Delhi will also be included. Since this is a very important subject, I want to know from the Minister, that in view of the fact that our country faces drought and flood alternately. Therefore, would you give an assurance in this House, to change this possibility into a certainty?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Madam, our satellites pick up the information regarding the several flood prone areas and the drought hit districts, and are given to the State Governments. I want that at our Department, a remote sensing centre is set up at the State Level. At present, there are such centres in over 20 States. It will be our endeavour to have such a centre in each State, for which the State Governments would have to make efforts and we would help them. As the hon. Member had said earlier, that there may be several requirements at the regional level, which can be solved by the States themselves with the help of our satellites. And if they have the sensing and imaging capability, they can avail this facility. Some States have this capability. More than 20 States have this capability. It would be our effort to see that each State has this capability.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### LPG Cylinders

\*101. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details regarding the total requirement of LPG in terms of tonnage as against the production at present;

(b) the details of Government schemes to increase the production of LPG by expanding the capacities of existing refineries and through natural gas, separately,

(c) the proposals of the procurement of LPG cylinders as against the present requirement thereof, and

(d) the number of units in each state where orders for supply of LPG cylinders have been placed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The details of consumption through Public Sector Oil companies and production of LPG in the country during last two years (1994-95 and 1995-96) are as given below :

Year	figures in 000 MT	
	LPG Production	LPG Consumption
1994-95	2858	3434
1995-96(Prov.)	3246	3836