

Chairman and Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, DGHS, and Senior Officers of DGT, BICP, CSIR, Director, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, Director, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow etc. The recommendations of the Committee are under the consideration of the Government.

Scope of Biotechnology

4460. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is great scope to use our bio-technology to increase agricultural production in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to utilise and improve our bio-technology to raise agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Biotechnology has a very important role to play for increasing agricultural productivity.

(b) The Department of Biotechnology has initiated several focussed R&D programmes in crop biotechnology since March 1989. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been closely associated with these programmes. These programmes aim to evolve plant breeding aids and pre-breeding genetic stocks to accelerate existing plant breeding efforts. The various programmes are:

- (i) Four nationally important crops e.g. rice, mustard, chickpea and wheat are being addressed with genetical and biotechnological approaches to develop pest and disease resistance high yielding varieties.

- (ii) Six centres for plant molecular biology (CPMB) have been set up since March 1990 in the existing institutions throughout the country for generating biotechnology research capability as well as trained manpower. Each CPMB is entrusted with a few crops having problem oriented basic and applied research programmes.

- (iii) Department of Biotechnology has initiated a network programme on biological control of pests and diseases under integrated pest management.

- (iv) Department of Biotechnology has launched the oil palm demonstration project in the states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. These projects aim to demonstrate the feasibility of oil palm cultivation under irrigated condition over an area of the about 1000 has in each state.

- (v) The tissue culture cardamom demonstration product project was launched by the Department in 1989.

- (vi) The Department of Biotechnology has launched a major programme on technology development and demonstration of Biofertilizers.

- (viii) Field activities and demonstration programmes of many of the projects are well advanced and the results can be seen during the VIII Plan period.

Performance of Industrial Sector

4461. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the poor performances of industrial sector in the country during last three years;

(b) the measures proposed to be taken for the growth of industrial sectors during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether any economic reforms are proposed to be brought in to achieve the objectives of industrial growth in the coming years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) (a) According to the Index of Industrial Production from CSO, the average rate of growth during the last three years (1988–89 to 1990–91) was 8.6%. This was marginally higher than the seventh plan average growth of 8.5% and sixth plan average growth of 6.5%.

(b) to (d). The provisions in the new Industrial and Trade Policies are aimed at boosting industrial production. The changes in the policy regime are made from time to time depending upon the needs and circumstances.

Construction of MCC Building by BHEL

4462. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the M.C.C. Building of Pretreatment Plant, constructed by BHEL in Tenughat Thermal Power Project, Lalpania in District Bokaro, has got cracked at several places due to settlement of soil;

(b) if so, the reason why the bearing capacity of the strata was not checked;

(c) whether complaints have been lodged in this regards;

(d) whether the whole structure has to be rejected;

(e) whether no such rejection took place and payment was made to the contractor for defective work; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The bearing capacity of the compacted soil was considered in design and the compaction tests were carried up before taking up construction.

(c) Contractor has been asked to carry out rectification work.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). The payment to the Contractor was made after the construction of the building. Some cracks were noticed approximately eight months after the construction. The Contractor has agreed to carry out rectification works. Therefore, no disciplinary action is called for.

Ash Bund Construction work Done by BHEL

4463. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints regarding poor quality of material utilised and work done at Ash Bund construction by BHEL at Tenughat Thermal Power Project have been lodged;

(b) whether the compaction of Ash Bund