

(IV) *Fire Fighting Engineering* : In addition to the routine upkeep of the fire fighting equipments in Maitri, a scientist from the Defence Institute of Fire Research (DIFR) will carry out testing and installation of the linear thermal fire detecting system which is a modern technique to guard and detect fire breakouts.

The following logistic tasks for the XVI expedition have been identified :

- (a) De-induction of four gensets from the A Block of Maitri and their relocation in containerized accommodation.
- (b) The space thus created will be converted into a full-fledged MI room comprising of OT examination room, x-ray and dark room, sterilization room, linen and medical store room.
- (c) The replacement of MEG mixture as an antifreeze in the main water supply line with electrical trace coil heating system.
- (d) All disused items including the non operational green-house, loose barrels, food dumps, unoperational vehicles etc. will be backloaded as a part of a clean-up operation. A special Environment Task Force under the overall co-ordination of the environment Officer-cum-observer for this purpose will oversee the whole operation.
- (e) A modified door for the vehicle garage cum workshop and panels for the balloon launching hut will be provided to complete these structures.
- (f) Upkeep of station infrastructure and all life support systems as a part of regular maintenance task.
- (g) Upgradation and regular maintenance of communication systems.
- (h) Upkeep of fire equipments of Maitri and updating the serviceability of all fire fighting equipments. Both the exterior and interior of the station complex will be painted with fire retardent paints as a precautionary measure.

Conversion of MIG Flats

903. SHRI RAM SAGAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "MIG flats converted into SFS" appearing in the Times of India dated September 20, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the number of MIG flats meant for registrants under New Pattern Scheme, 1979 converted into self

financing scheme in Vasant Kunj and put up for sale under the 9th self financing scheme by the DDA depriving the registrants of the flats and making their waiting still longer; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to withdraw these flats from the 9th SFS and allot the same to the MIG registrants under NPS, 1979?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The DDA has reported that 201 MIG flats in Vasant Kunj have been converted into category II SFS flats. The conversion has been done on account of the fact that the plinth area of these flats is 81-92 sq. mtrs., while the plinth area of the MIG flats as notified in the brochure is 65 sq. mtrs. only. 195 of these 201 flats have been offered for sale under the 9th Self Financing Scheme and the remaining six flats are meant for allotment on out of turn basis in accordance with the prescribed guidelines.

(d) No, Sir.

Solar Energy

904. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total energy production from solar energy recorded in the country over the past twelve months;

(b) whether some States have sought permission to set up new projects for tapping solar energy by themselves or with foreign assistance;

(c) if so, the details and reaction of the Government;

(d) whether any private undertakings are involved in harnessing solar energy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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) Solar energy is used through two main routes, the thermal route in which the heat is used for water heating, cooking, drying, etc. and the photovoltaic route for generation of electricity which can in turn be used for several purposes. A large number of solar energy systems have been installed in the country to function in a decentralised mode and provide energy for specific uses. It is estimated that during the past 12 months, about 234 million kilowatt hours of thermal energy and 22.5 million units of electrical energy were generated through solar thermal and photovoltaic systems respectively.

(b) and (c). An integrated solar combined cycle power plant with a capacity of 140 MW is proposed to