

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to make use of nuclear energy in converting the saline water into drinking water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be started; and

(d) the amount likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) A nuclear desalination demonstration plant of 6300 cubic and metre per day capacity, based on combined Multi Stage.

(b) Flash - Reverse Osmosis desalination process and using power and low-pressure steam generated by the Madras Atomic Power Station, Kalpakkam is proposed to be set up at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu during the IX plan.

(c) The Plant is expected to be completed during the calendar year 2001, subject to approval for the project being received expeditiously and adequate Plan outlay being available during the IX Plan period.

(d) The estimated expenditure of the project is Rs. 3097 lakh.

[English]

Nuclear Thermal Rockets

2256. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Scientists have worked on Nuclear Thermal Rockets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government propose to launch their own space satellite like INSAT-2D?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) with a capability to launch Indian National Satellite

System-2 (INSAT-2) class of satellites in the required orbit is under development. The first development flight of GSLV is planned during 1998.

MPLADS Subsidiaries

2257. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per guidelines of MPLADS, Member of Parliament can give financial assistance for repairs, renovation and construction of schools even if the land on which the building is built belongs to a Trust;

(b) whether the Member of Parliament can also give financial assistance for procurement of benches for sitting of students of a school which belongs to a Trust;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Government propose to review the guidelines and make necessary provision for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR) : (a) to (d) As per guidelines of MPLADS, the scheme funds cannot be spent on repairs and renovation unless it is a special repair for restoration/upgradation of any durable asset. The guidelines also do not permit purchase of inventory or stock of any type. The benches for sitting of students of a school, therefore, cannot be procured under the scheme.

(e) the guidelines were recently revised in February, 1997. There is no proposal at present with the Government to revise these further.

[Translation]

Review of Functioning of CBI

2258. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI V.V. RAGHVAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation in the recent past has failed to substantiate the charges of corruption against several charge-sheeted persons;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether any review of the functioning of C.B.I. has been made; and