

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for that purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Planning Commission allocates Central Assistance for State Plans as a whole and spatial and sectoral allocations are made by the State Government. However, Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments including Andhra Pradesh in overcoming the problems of development of backward areas through various area programmes viz. Tribal Sub-Plan, Drought Prone Area Programme, Desert Development Programme etc.

#### **Mango Production**

1174. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a drastic failure of the Mango crop this year in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the failure of the Mango crop; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the output of Mango crop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) There has been less production of mango crop in parts of Andhra Pradesh. The low production is attributed mainly to the adverse weather conditions like extended rainy season, fluctuating temperature resulting in reduced flowering and subsequently failure of pollination and pollen germination added with pest and disease attacks.

(c) The State Government have taken a number of steps to improve crop production. These steps include organising training programmes to the orchardists in adopting integrated pest management, plant protection measure, ensure optimum supply of inputs like insecticides and pesticides.

#### **Scheme for Andhra Pradesh**

1175. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent some schemes to the Planning Commission for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof including their locations; and

(c) the time by which these schemes are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Planning Commission have no schemes pending for approval.

[Translation]

#### **Nuclear Tests**

1176. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries which have expressed their desire to cooperate with our country out of those which had stopped cooperating with our country after the nuclear test conducted by India at Pokhran in Rajasthan on May 18, 1974;

(b) whether the nuclear power countries had refused to give nuclear technique to India to generate power during the last few years;

(c) the reasons for this refusal and whether the Government are reconsidering its nuclear policy keeping it in view; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) A number of countries which stopped co-operation after the nuclear test conducted by India at Pokhran on May 18, 1974 have expressed varying degrees of interest in resuming co-operation with our country.

(b) to (d) In the last few years, countries with capabilities in nuclear power generation have expressed their inability to provide inputs of technology, materials and equipment in the light of their being a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) or their membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). Russia has, however, continued its interest in setting up a 2000 megawatt nuclear power station as this related to a commitment entered into with India in 1988, prior to its membership of the NSG. Government is taking all necessary steps keeping in mind the national development needs and national security perspectives.

#### **Construction of Bridges over Canals**

1177. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether bridges constructed in Uttar Pradesh over different canals have been damaged;

(b) if so, whether the irrigation department is not repairing these bridges;

(c) the amount spent by the Government for repair of these damaged bridges on different canals in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years; and

(d) the concrete steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The bridges over canals in Uttar Pradesh are inspected and repaired as and when required by their Public Works Department. An amount of Rs. 26.48 lakhs has been spent during the last three years (1995-96 to 1997-98) on the repairs of these bridges.

#### **National Water Catchment Area Development Scheme**

1178. SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated funds under National Water Catchment Area Development Scheme during Ninth Five Year Plan as compared with that of the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects and in the catchments of Flood Prone Rivers, are under implementation. For these schemes, during Ninth Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 550 crores is allocated against Rs. 520 crores in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

[English]

#### **Starvation Deaths**

1179. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the report in the *Hindu* of April 17, 1998 captioned "Women dies of starvation" reporting recovery of dead women's body and other family members writhing in pain from Bhadoti town of Sawai Madhopur district of Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that nobody dies of hunger and starvation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) As per information received from the Government of Rajasthan, the death was due to disease and not due to starvation.

#### **Solar Energy**

1180. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:  
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Solar Energy generation plants set up in the country during the Eighth Plan along with their installed capacity;

(b) the quantum of Solar Energy being generated in the country at present and the possibilities of its increase, state-wise;

(c) the details of the use of solar energy;

(d) the proposals mooted to increase the generation of power through Solar Energy during Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the position of the country in the world in the field of solar energy generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) The two principal routes and technologies of solar energy utilisation are (i) the thermal route using the heat for heating, cooking, drying, water purification and power generation; and (ii) the photovoltaic route which converts the light into electricity which can then be used for a variety of purposes such as lighting, (pumping, communication, battery charging, refrigeration and power generation.

The details of the solar energy systems installed in the country during the Eighth Plan period (1992-93 to 1996-97) are given in the attached Statement.

Solar Photovoltaic systems of about 32 MWp aggregate capacity are estimated to have been installed in the country for various applications. In addition, 4.1 lakh sq.m of solar thermal collectors and 4.57 lakh solar cookers have been installed. These systems are capable of generating about 48 million units of electrical and 353 million units of thermal energy annually.

There is an average estimated potential of 20 MW per sq. Km. of electrical energy generation from solar energy in the country. There is an enormous potential for increasing the generation of energy from solar radiation in all the States. It is, however, difficult to estimate the possibilities of its