

(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