

(c) In terms of Supreme Court judgement in Indira Sawhney case, total reservation including backlog reservation for all categories viz. SCs/STs/OBCs cannot exceed 50% of vacancies filled up in a year. Special Recruitment Drive for any reserved category is not feasible as the current reservation for SCs/STs/OBCs is already 49.5%.

#### **Backward Districts**

1164. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have evolved any new criteria to identify the backward districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names and the number of such backward district in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the schemes prepared for their development and the details thereof?

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 & Development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Planning Commission have not identified any area as backward *per se*. However, Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in the development of backward regions through appropriate weightage for backwardness in the formula used for distribution of Normal Central Assistance amongst the States. Further, Special Central Assistance is allocated to various States, including Uttar Pradesh for Special Area Programmes such as Border Area Development Programme, Hill Area Development Programme, Tribal Sub-Plan etc.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### **Use of Thorium**

1165. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian scientists have developed the fast-breeder-reactor technique to generate electricity from thorium;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which electricity is likely to be generated from thorium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The technology for Fast Breeder Reactors has been developed by Indian scientists for generation of electricity using plutonium and uranium as fuel, not thorium. The construction of the first Prototype of the Fast Breeder Reactor (500 MWe) is expected to commence towards the end of the IX Plan period. A reactor based on the Uranium (233)—Thorium fuel cycle is at present under engineering development. The question of setting up power plants based on such reactors can be decided only at a later stage.

#### **Index for National Agriculture Production**

1166. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:  
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the date on which the index for National Agriculture Production (Anawari Report) was determined;

(b) whether any change has been made in this index; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The estimates of agricultural production till 1950 were framed based on the traditional method in terms of annas in a rupee (Anawari method) or paise in a rupee in relation to normal yield by eye appraisal. Since 1950, this subjective procedure has been replaced by objective method of yield estimation through scientifically designed crop cutting experiments adopting random sampling technique for all the major crops.

[English]

#### **Infrastructure Sector**

1167. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:  
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: