

Research and Development (R & D) projects are in progress in the following areas of biogas technology and its utilization, at seven institutions in the country :

- (i) Efficient biogas production at low and high temperatures;
- (ii) Field trials on leafy biomass based biogas plants; and
- (iii) Survival of pathogens in night-soil based plants.

(b) In the period from 1995-96 to 1997-98, 1.42 lakh solar lanterns, 40,000 home lighting system, small power plants of 195 KW aggregate capacity and 1876 solar pumps have been installed in different parts of the country under the subsidy programme of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. Soft loan scheme for the purchase of solar water heaters and solar cookers has been introduced. Another scheme to provide finance for institutional users of solar thermal systems, has been introduced through Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). Ten solar shops have been opened in different cities. About 1,30,000 square metres of solar thermal collectors and about 87,000 solar cookers have been installed during the last three years. Nine grid interactive solar photovoltaic power projects with 610 KW capacity have been commissioned in five States.

Under the Central Sector Scheme - National Project on Biogas Development, a total of over 5.24 lakh family type biogas plants have been set up in different States and Union Territories during the last three years, i.e., 1995-96 to 1997-98. In addition, a total of about 970 community, institutional and night-soil based biogas plants have been set up in the country during the same period. Highlights of the achievements made in the field of biogas technology and its utilization through R & D projects sponsored by Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) during the last three years are (i) development of a plug flow type digester for processing of leafy biomass; (ii) designing a low cost fixed dome biogas plants made of ferro-cement; and (iii) development of a process for using digested slurry in vermi-composting.

(c) The Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) which is being implemented in selected Blocks in all the States and Union Territories in the country, aims at meeting the energy needs for subsistence and development through the most cost effective mix of different energy options with particular focus on renewable energy options, in the IREP Blocks. IREP has been extended to cover 860 Blocks in the country.

[English]

Deep Sea Fishing

*515. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :
SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of foreign deep sea fishing companies operating in Indian waters;

(b) whether the Government have prescribed any guidelines for those companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the encroachment by foreign fishing vessels/trawlers is increasing in the country; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop such encroachment in the country particularly in Goa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) There are no foreign deep sea companies operating in Indian waters. However, nine Indian companies have been permitted to operate 37 foreign deep sea fishing vessels on lease, of which 19 are in operation at present. The details of such companies are given in the enclosed statement. Operation of the leased vessels is governed by the provisions of the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981, Rules/Orders thereunder and terms and conditions of the permits.

(d) and (e) The Government of Goa and the Coast Guard Organisation have both reported that there is no increase in encroachment by foreign fishing vessels/trawlers. Coast Guard ships and aircraft carry out regular patrols to prevent foreign fishing vessels from encroaching into Indian waters. The Coast Guard Regional Headquarters at Chennai, Mumbai and Port Blair also launch special operations in coordination with Customs and State Police authorities in the EEZ to check poaching/illegal fishing.

Statement

No. of Valid Permits and Vessels in Operation Under Lease as on 18.7.1998

S. No.	Company	Valid Approvals (No. of Vessels)	Vessels in Operation
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s Port Blair Manish-A-Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	10	3
2.	M/s Srikumaran Fisheries, Chennai	4	Nil
3.	M/s Sovin Sea Foods Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	2	2
4.	M/s Adaman Marine Products Dev. Co., Port Blair	3	3

1	2	3	4
5.	M/s Balaji Sea Foods, Vishakhapatnam	2	Nil
6.	M/s Andaman Fisheries Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	3	3
7.	M/s Simla Marine, New Delhi	1	Nil
8.	M/s A.K. International, New Delhi	5	1
9.	M/s Moon Marine India, Chennai	7	7
Total		37	19

[Translation]

Co-Operative Milk Societies

*516. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open one lakh new rural cooperative milk societies in the country during Ninth Five Year Plan,

(b) if so, the number of Co-operative societies constituted so far; and

(c) the number of the societies likely to be constituted and the time by which the remaining societies would be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (c) The Government proposes to extend financial assistance for establishing 35,000 new dairy Co-operative Societies during the 9th Five Year Plan.

(b) A total of 82,384 societies have been created so far.

[English]

Reservoirs

*517. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals of reservoir schemes received by the Union Government from different State Governments during the last three years;

(b) the details of the schemes accepted and rejected by the Union Government during the period, State-wise;

(c) the number of such proposals pending with the Union Governments; and

(d) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) 23 reservoir schemes were received in Central Water Commission during the last three years (from 4/95 to 30.6.98). Of these three projects namely Veligonda Project (Andhra Pradesh), Mewat Canal Project (Haryana) and Sina Kolegaon (Maharashtra) were returned to the State Governments with a request to prepare the reports as per Central Water Commission guidelines. The remaining reports are at various stages of examination including three projects which have been found acceptable by Technical Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources namely Kar Project (Maharashtra), Dhanragoth Project (Orissa) and Gararda Project (Rajasthan). Clearance of these projects will depend upon the time taken by the State Governments for compliance of observations made by various Central appraising agencies.

US Senators Visit to India

*518. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
DR. SAROJA V. :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a two-member team of US senators visited India recently;

(b) if so, the objective behind their visit to India;

(c) whether these US Senators have been conveyed that the US Administration's China policy does not take into account India's security interests; and

(d) if so, their reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir. US Senators Sam Brownback, Chairman and Charles Robb, Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Sub-Committee on Near East and South Asia, visited India from June 28-30, 1998. The Senators called on the Prime Minister, Home Minister and the Defence Minister and held discussions in the Ministry of External Affairs.

(b) The Senators conveyed that the purpose of their visit was to meet representatives of the Government of India and to gain first hand knowledge of the situation. They also conveyed that US Congress wanted to move on the issue of restrictions under the Glenn Amendment and to introduce greater flexibility in US laws.

(c) Discussions were held with the Senators on a wide-range of subjects including Indo-US bilateral relations and India's security concerns. In that context, their attention was drawn to continuing nuclear and missile cooperation