

*(English)***Rice Husk Ash**

1831. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Institute of Solid Waste Research and Ecological Balance has observed that Rice Husk has the potential to galvanise the electricity-starved rural India and can also be used as a substitute for the cost-intensive super-poyyolana in cement concrete;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Rice Husk Ash exploit also has the export potential; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the research carried out in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Generation of electricity from Rice Husk is already covered under the Programme on Biomass Power Generation of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, wherein financial assistance is provided for setting up such projects. Technology for using Rice Husk Ash as pozzolana has been developed and established in India and several other countries, but it has not yet been utilised at commercial scale in India. However, rice husk as a natural fibre for manufacturing particle board has been exploited in India.

Expansion and Widening of NH from Guwahati to Dibrugarh

1832. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme for the expansion and widening of the National Highway from Guwahati to Dibrugarh via Nagaon; and

(b) if so, the details and the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The stretch from Guwahati to Nagaon is proposed to be widened as a part of East West corridor connecting Sitchar to Saurashtra. However at present there is no proposal for widening of the stretch from Nagaon to Dibrugarh.

(b) One scheme for four laning of Guwahati bypass in nearly 8 km. at an estimated cost of Rs. 20 crore has been identified for immediate implementation.

Goitre and Thyroid Patients

1833. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED: SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme propose to conduct a nation-wide survey in regard to impact evaluation of the iodised salt on the prevalence of goitre and other iodine deficiency disorders;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the total number of goitre and thyroid patients before and after the ban on non-iodised salt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Impact-evaluation studies are an important component of the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme. As per information available, the surveys conducted by the Directorate General of Health Services, State Health Directorates and other Health Institutions have revealed a significant reduction in the prevalence of Iodine Deficiency Disorders.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Statement showing the impact of iodated salt on the prevalence of Iodine Deficiency Disorders in re-surveyed districts of different States and Union Territories is attached.