

### **Advanced Technology for Commercial Production**

3998. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the major constraints in the translation of advanced technology particularly nuclear into commercial production of goods;

(b) whether the constraints related to global perceptions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### **Radiation exposure and its effects**

3999. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether exposure to radiation at the Atomic Energy plants in India leads to Leukaemia and Gene Mutation in the father's sperm;

(b) whether the Government have warned, as in other countries, the prospective fathers to refrain from fathering a child not only while they are working in the plants but also for at least one year after leaving the plant; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DE-

VELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) Exposure to radiation beyond permissible limits whether from a Nuclear Power Plant or from other causes including natural environmental background may lead to cancer. The effect is probabilistic and cannot be distinguished from cancer induced by other equally well known agents such as pollutants, tobacco and socio-economic factors.

(b) Government have seen reports about opinion of a foreign expert about the need for counselling radiation workers. Government have not issued any warning to the fathers to refrain from fathering a child not only while they are working in the plants but also after leaving the plant, since there is no evidence for this affect at the limited doses to which the workers are exposed to and which is monitored.

(c) Does not arise.

### **Advancement of Thar Desert**

4000. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of an increasing pace of ecological destabilisation in Rajasthan due to the advancement of Thar Desert;

(b) whether Government propose to take immediate remedial measures; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The results of research conducted by the Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur and the analysis of Satellite imageries do not support the view that the Thar Desert is advancing. However, the