

Modern technology for non-conventional energy

*853. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some foreign countries have offered modern technology for production of non-conventional energy in our country ;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on this issue :

(c) which countries have offered such modern technology ; and

(d) which are the systems for each such technology offered and the conditions attached therewith?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Sir, may I know whether it is a fact that the countries like USSR, USA, UK and Denmark are the pioneers in the production of non-conventional energy; If so, may I know whether the USSR has developed a very economical and cheaper model of wind-mill i.e. Eagle which is very easily operated and also very economical? Such type of model-wind mills can be installed in our country specially when our country fully depends on the agricultural sector. 75 per cent of our population is engaged in agricultural operation and these windmills, if installed in rural areas, the farmers can easily operate and it will be very economical. May I know whether the Government will think in that line to set up such type of model wind mills in our country?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We are already setting up wind-mill farms on the coastal side of our country. Two wind-mill farms—one at Tuticorin and one in Gujarat—have already been successfully working. Three more wind-mills are pro-

posed and any technology that can help us to put improved or better wind-mills will always be welcome. We are always on the look out. We are, ourselves, developing these windmills. This suggestion would be most welcome. But we do not have offer from any country mentioned by the hon. Member of any new technology in this regard. But we are, ourselves, on the look out and developing technology not only in the field of wind-mill but all non-conventional sources of energy. We know this is very important for the country.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Sir, my second supplementary is whether it is a fact that a survey was conducted by the U.N. who had opined that whatever the energy we are getting now-a-days from wind-mills, it can be 16 times more than that. So, in that context, may I know from the hon. Minister whether any programme has been made to speed up the setting up of such wind-mills in the rural areas. Why I am saying this is, in all, 400 wind-mills have been set up in our country. So, will the Hon'ble Minister has any programme to expedite it?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We know the great potential of wind in the country and we would like to expedite it fully. But it depends upon the force, velocity of the wind available and what can be best used for generating energy; we will definitely keep this in mind. We have a big programme of using wind-mill energy in the country.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : I would like to know whether anywhere in the country we have experimented with magneto hydro dynamics and if so, where, with what results and what are the calculated economics.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : On MHD, a pilot plant is being experimented in our country. That technology is modern and it helps direct conversion from coal to energy...

SHRI G. G. SWELL : Where ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I do not know where. I will try to get the details

and pass them on to the hon. Member. Is it in Meghalaya ?

SHRI G. G. SWELL : You are the Minister for Energy.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I will find out and get the information. The pilot plant has been set up in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Development of non-conventional sources of energy is a national priority. We have agreements for exchange of science and technology with many countries in the world—a very large number of countries. In furtherance of these Agreements we have Joint Commissions on science and technology. Now the procedure in these Joint Commissions is that the country, India or the other country, each one of them, submits those matters on which they would like to have cooperation. I would like to know, in view of the large number of these Joint Commissions, in view of the fact that it is open to this country to submit the item on which they would like to have cooperation and in view of the fact that non-conventional sources of energy are a national priority, why this question of cooperation in non-conventional sources of energy has not been taken up by any of the Joint Commissions on science and technology.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As far as science and technology is concerned, as I said, the Department of Non-conventional Energy Sources is developing on all fields of non-conventional sources of energy the technology indigenously and wherever we find that technology is available, we take action. It is a question of country-to-country when you say that discussions in Joint Commissions are held. Uptill now, no country has come forward or has shown any interest, but we have gone to various countries to find out technologies like Denmark for wind-mill and to other countries, and we take the best wherever it is available.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether

any attention is being paid to harness the tidal wave energy ?

[English]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : That is also under consideration.

Licences for postal agencies

*854. **SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether licences for postal agencies now being given to private parties are granted only to war-widows, handicapped ex-servicemen and Scheduled Castes/Tribes alone;

(b) if not, what are the categories of persons eligible for the same; and

(c) how many private agencies have been appointed in the State of Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The scheme of licenced Postal Agents provides for grant of licenses to companies registered under Indian Companies Act, sole proprietorship firms, partnership concerns or to individuals, preference being given to charitable institutions, women's associations or co-operatives, war widows and physically handicapped persons. Licences are at present being issued mainly to institutions, associations, societies and other socially useful agencies.

(c) So far, 23 licensed postal agents have been appointed in Kerala State.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : The answer given by the Minister makes it specifically clear that the licences are at present being issued mainly to institutions, associations, societies and other socially useful agencies. But I