

(c) the amount actually spent and the details of work done for the development of Adivasi people of these districts;

(d) whether these districts are still backward in all respects;

(e) if so, the details of financial assistance being allocated for the development of these areas during the Seventh Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) The districts having substantial tribal population in

Orissa are the entire districts of Koraput, Mayurbhanj and Sundergarh and parts of the districts of (a) Keonjhar, (b) Boudh-Khondmals, (c) Kalahandi, (d) Ganjam, (e) Saemalpur and (f) Balasore.

(b) The Sixth Plan allocation for the development of Scheduled Tribes and tribal areas in the State was Rs. 68607.70 lakhs.

(c) The expenditure during the Sixth Plan was Rs. 66959.55 lakhs. The programmes undertaken included (i) infrastructural, (ii) income generating schemes, (iii) educational development programmes, and (iv) anti-exploitative measures.

(d) Relatively speaking these are backward in several respects.

(e) The amount to be allocated during the Seventh Plan is being finalised by the Planning Commission.

Development of Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station

***764. PROF. P. J. KURIEN :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there is any proposal to develop the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station at Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Thubma Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS), and

(b) established in early 1960s, has been serving a large number of national and international scientists in conducting sounding rockets experiments. As a unit of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), it is being adequately maintained to serve these needs and is also being augmented as found necessary from time to time to support the national and international efforts.

Acid Rains

***765. SHRI BEZHAWADA PAPI REDDY :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been incidences of "Acid Rains" in the country and if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(b) the short-term and long-term losses arising from "acid rains"; and

(c) whether the "acid rains" have decreased due to preventive measures taken, and if so, the details for the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) There are no confirmed reports of any incidents of acid rain in India during the last three years.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

System of Hanging by Rope

***766. SHRI N. DENNIS :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the system of hanging by rope is being followed at present;

(b) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to change the current system of hanging by rope; and

(c) if so, the changes proposed in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir,