

Technology Development Fund

***524. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Technology Development Fund for providing finance for upgrading indigenous research processes from pilot plant level; and

(b) if so, the details of such processes already developed in the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and other laboratories, including P. L. 480 Projects on some of which even patents were taken out years ago ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) The Government has recognised the importance of investments on pilot plants, process demonstration units and prototype development in the commercial exploitation of technology developed in the laboratories. The TPIC (Technology Policy Implementing Committee) had constituted a working group to examine the need for setting up a national industrial R and D fund. The report of the working group has been examined by the TPIC. The proposed fund envisages support for up-grading indigenous research efforts from pilot plant level. The Government has not taken a final decision on this.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY : Are the Government aware of the fact that several CSIR labs operating in this country are today suffering from lack of funds and they are not in a position to set up pilot projects to upgrade bench scale or lab scale processes in the pilot scale and without testing the process on the pilot scale, many of these labs are releasing the processes to the entrepreneurs who are struggling to develop the processes at their own cost and the NRDC is charging them royalty and know-how fees and they refuse to reimburse the amount that has been spent by the entrepreneurs ? Is it also a fact that the

working group which has been constituted by the CSIR recommended that sufficient fund should be given to NRDC so that these funds may flow in the various labs in the country for developing the processes on a pilot scale ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : The processes and technologies are developed in laboratories. But they have to be obtained and they have to be brought to the level of commercial utilisation technologies. If we are spending one rupee for the development of technology, two rupees have to be spent for the development of pilot plant technology level and then three rupees for the development of commercial technology. At present, we are spending some money for development of pilot level and commercial level technology also from the technologies which are developed in CSIR. But the Government has taken a decision to levy surcharge on the customs duties, on the machinery and technology purchased from outside and make that money available for the development of indigenous technology. Some money which will be raised in this fashion, may become available. Final decision has yet to be taken. But as things stand now, we have made about 1,200 technologies available and they are being introduced.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : May I know whether the Government is aware.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Evaluation of Tree Plantation and Survival

***516. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI :
SYED SHAHABUDDIN :**

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any independent evaluation of tree plantation and actual survival of the trees planted during the last six Five Year Plans has been made; and

(b) if so, the results thereof ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) and (b). Independent evaluation efforts have been made mainly during

the Sixth Five Year Plan period onwards, but on a sporadic and not very regular basis. It is felt that these evaluations are limited in their scope and hence do not point to any reliable conclusions.

Sealing of International Borders with Pakistan

*520. SHRI B.V. DESAI :

SHRI YASHWANTRAO
GADAKH PATIL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Punjab has urged the Centre to take immediate steps to effectively seal the international borders with Pakistan so as to strike at the operational roots of disruptionist elements; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereon and by what time the Pakistan borders will be sealed ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b). In this connection, the Government of India had drawn the attention of the State Government of Punjab to the increase in the activities of extremist elements in Punjab during November, 1985. In response to this, the Govt. of Punjab requested the Govt. of India to seal the border effectively. In this connection, it may be pointed out that the Govt. of India had already taken adequate measures to guard effectively the Indo-Pakistan border by deploying additional companies of BSF and by intensifying patrolling etc. These forces have been equipped with more sophisticated equipment. It will be appreciated that the task of effective surveillance of the border is of continuing nature.

Purchase of Blankets for Army

*523. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of firms which were given orders by the Ministry of Defence for the supply of woollen blankets for the army since 1984;

(b) the terms and conditions fixed for the purchase of these blankets; and

(c) the standard and quality fixed for these blankets ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) 25 firms were given orders by the Ministry of Defence for the supply of barrack blankets type A for the Army in 1985. No such orders were placed in 1984.

(b) and (c). A statement on the terms and conditions, and the standard and quality fixed for these blankets, is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in library. See No. LT-2532/86]

Endangered Species of Birds

*525. SHRI ANAND SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) which are the endangered species of birds in India mainly pheasants;

(b) what is the estimated number of each species;

(c) the steps being taken to protect and breed them in captivity; and

(d) the incentives being given to private breeders, if any, in the country ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) The endangered species of birds including pheasants which feature under Schedule I of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 are as per the list indicated in the attached Statement-I.

(b) No detailed survey of the population of endangered birds has been carried out so far on a country-wide basis. The population of some highly endangered species has been estimated and reported as follows :—

Siberian White crane migrating to India in winter—approximately—37 reported this year.

Black necked crane migrating to Ladakh in summer—7 in 1983.

•Great Indian Bustard—over 1000.

(c) A statement is attached (Statement-II).

(d) Financial assistance is proposed to be provided to a leading private pheasant