

(b) whether this technology is mostly centralised;

(c) if so, details of the same; and

(d) how Government are going to exploit that technology?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) to (d). Research and development in new and renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind, biomass, etc. has enabled us to develop various indigenous technologies. These devices and systems include solar water heating systems, solar crop driers, solar timber kilns, solar pumps, solar cookers, solar distillation units, solar photovoltaic cells for water pumping and other applications, wind pumps, family-type and community/institutional type biogas plants, battery powered vehicles, and new designs of micro-hydro energy units.

Renewable energy technologies are particularly suited for decentralised applications in the household, agricultural and cottage industry sectors in rural areas, and for supplementing supply for low and medium temperature requirements in the commercial and industrial sectors in urban areas.

Government have set up the Commission for Additional Sources of Energy to coordinate and implement policies and programmes for the use of new and renewable sources of energy. Major activities being undertaken by the Commission include: intensification of Research and Development; demonstration and field installation of mature technologies; fiscal and promotional measures to accelerate industrial production; setting up of specialised centres for time-bound, mission-oriented research and development and product/prototype development; and, public information programmes for creating awareness about these technologies. A large number of field installations are being taken up all over the country by the Commission, which is also promoting such a use by all classes of people, wherever applicable.

Steps to popularise oath by 'Apurmaton'

***699. SHRIMATI VIDYA CHENNU-PATI:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that Indian Oaths Act has provided for the taking of an oath by 'affirmation'; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to popularise this mode of taking an oath so as to promote the concept of secularism among the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing forms of oath cater to both believer and non-believer. Belief in the existence of God is a matter of individual's conscience and is not incompatible with the concept of secularism.

Licensing policy for setting up Industries in no-Industry District

***700. SHRI K. PRADHANI:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to give "over-riding preference" in its industrial licensing policy for those applicants who propose to establish their ventures in the specified districts where there is no large or medium industry;

(b) whether any such districts have been identified in Orissa;

(c) if so, the name of those districts; and

(d) what are the developmental measures proposed to be undertaken there?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Balasore, Bolangir and Phulbani.

(d) Central Ministries as well as the State Government have been advised to