

systems for various applications such as water pumping, community lighting, community radio and television, etc. has been greatly expanded. Work on large community biogas plants has been initiated at several locations during the year; so far two have been completed, and a few others are nearing completion. The construction of large sewage gas plants in some medium and large cities is also being taken up. A major demonstration programme for water pumping wind windmills have been installed at mills is being implemented, and thirty various locations in actual field conditions. Prototypes of battery powered vehicles in the range 1/2—1-1/2 ton capacity have been fabricated, and are currently under-going performance trials; several prototypes are under fabrication. Integrated energy projects based on renewable energies are being implemented at selected locations, with a view to meeting a substantial portion of the total energy requirements of a village. Further sites are being identified in consultation with the State Governments.

The programme during the current financial year marks a three-fold increase over last year.

Assistance to start Nucleus Plants in Andhra Pradesh

*251. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Centre to provide assistance for infrastructural facilities to start nucleus plants; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

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

(b). The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Review of Functioning of Employment Exchanges

*252. SHRI N. E. HORO:

SHRI HARINATHA MISRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to review as to whether employment exchanges are functioning as an agency for assisting the vast jobless work force, both skilled and unskilled, to be self-employed; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the scheme and the progress in its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b). The Sixth Five Year Plan has suggested a disaggregated approach to promote self-employment. Under this approach, in each district, a District Manpower Planning & Employment Generation Council is being set up. The Council will have people's representatives and representatives of concerned development departments, credit institutions, voluntary agencies, and academic, research and training institutions. Based on the best available assessment of the scope for economically viable self-employment projects, the Council in each district will, *inter alia*, get prepared a portfolio of viable investment opportunities available for self-employment. Such a strategy calls upon the Employment Exchanges to play a new role under which they would be required to motivate job-seekers to go in for self-employment. For this purpose, they would be suitably strengthened.

All the States/Union Territory Administrations have been requested to set up District Manpower Planning and Employment Generation Councils