

No, Sir. Even now, the whole of Gwalior district and parts of Bhind, Morena, Shivpuri and Datia districts are covered by the medium power transmitter at Gwalior.

(b) Such facilities already exist.

Non-Aligned Information Ministers Resolution to Support UNESCO

*140. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Non-Aligned Information Ministers meeting in Jakarta in January this year passed a resolution to render all support to UNESCO following U.S. decision to withdraw from UNESCO ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in pursuance thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir. A copy of the resolution is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No LT-7839/84].

(b) Even before the resolution referred to above was passed by the Non-Aligned Information Ministers' Conference held in Jakarta, the official spokesman of the Government of India had made the following statement on 31st December, 1983 on the US decision to withdraw from UNESCO :— quote : We are saddened by this news and hope very much that the U.S. Government will find it possible to review their reported decision unquote.

The United States has given notice of withdrawal from UNESCO with effect from January, 1985 and has not yet withdrawn from the organisation.

India is presently engaged in assessing all the aspects of the matter in consultation with other countries particularly the non-aligned countries.

Progress of Biogas Programme

1389. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the

Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progress of bio-gas programme in the country is far from satisfactory with the number of bio-gas plants installed falling short of the set target ;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that out of 1,10,000 bio-gas plants only 82,867 have been installed in the first two years of the Sixth Five Year Plan ;

(c) if so, the major factors responsible for not achieving the target ; and

(d) by what time the target set for bio-gas plants will be met ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) : (a) to (c). The National Project on Biogas Development was sanctioned in November 1981 and the programme picked up fairly satisfactorily to achieve 75% of the target within a period of 1½ year in spite of problems related to creation of trained manpower, availability of cement and bank loans and lack of organisational infrastructure.

(d) For the current year the target is 75000 plants under this programme and by the end of January 1984 over 48,000 plants have been set up. It is expected that the current year's target will be achieved in full.

Sale of Non-Subsidised Kerosene

1390. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI A.K. BALAN :
SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-
DASAN NADAR :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that consequent upon the abolition of dual prices for kerosene oil since March 1983, the dealers are required to sell non-subsidised kerosene oil at subsidised price, thereby causing loss to them ;

(b) if so, whether Government will consider giving compensation to dealers ; and