

of projects is given in the following table:—

Sl. No.	State	Expected increase in generation of energy during 1978-79 (in million units)
Northern Region		
1.	Chandigarh	34
2.	Delhi	—
3.	Haryana	2191
4.	Himachal Pradesh	304
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	533
6.	Punjab	3595
7.	Rajasthan	1380
8.	Uttar Pradesh	6153
9.	Central Projects	1083
Western Region		
10.	Gujarat	3340
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2473
12.	Maharashtra	3168
Southern Region		
13.	Andhra Pradesh	4221
14.	Karnataka	1250
15.	Kerala	2020
16.	Tamil Nadu	489
17.	Central Project (Kul-pakkam)	822
Eastern Region		
18.	Bihar	1341
19.	Damodar Valley Corporation	612
20.	Orissa	70
21.	West Bengal	1302
North-Eastern Region		
Total		36793

Development of Small Scale Industries in Backward Areas

*567. SHRI RAGUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of new incentives for small scale industrial units in the country;

(b) whether the new incentives would give a new thrust to the development of small scale units in backward areas; and

(c) whether the collective impact of these new incentives will help in the reduction of the cost of production and accelerate the growth of small industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). Several incentives and facilities are given for promotion of small industries from time to time depending upon the requirements of this sector and availability of resources. No new incentives are being contemplated at present. Government had appointed a committee to review and examine the backward area development programme so that a suitable strategy could be evolved for a development programme for small scale industries in backward areas. The Committee had submitted its report and the recommendations of the Committee are being considered by Government.

(c) It is expected that the impact of the various existing incentives would help small industries reduce their cost of production and accelerate their growth.

Proposals made by Chairman of National Committee on Science and Technology Working Group on De-salination

*569. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the proposals made in an article by the Chairman of National Committee on Science and Technology Working Group on de-salination published in a weekly dated April 4-10, 1976; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SANKAR GHOSE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) R&D work is in progress in BARC (Bhaba Atomic Research Centre) Bombay, CSMCRI (Central Salt & Marine Chemical Research Institute), Bhavnagar etc.

Solar Energy

*573. SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHURI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state the progress made on harnessing Solar Energy so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SANKAR GHOSE): R&D on devices for utilization of solar energy by direct photo voltaic conversion and by thermal utilization of solar energy is underway. A major experimental project on Space Heating has been completed at the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited plant at Hardwar and is under evaluation at present. An integrated project prepared by the Department of Science and Technology for the engineering development of solar thermal devices for rural, urban and metropolitan sectors, has been approved by the Energy Research Committee and is in progress.

Foreign projects for execution by Engineering Projects of India

*574. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Engineering Projects of India are receiving enquiries for execution of a number of projects from abroad, especially from Gulf and Arab countries;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to utilise this opportunity and accept these offers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). Engineering Projects (India) Limited entered the overseas market about three years back. During this period their participation in international tenders has resulted in orders of the value of Rs.38.13 crores being secured by them in the Middle East, South East Asia and Europe. EPI is now poised to secure more business in the future.

(c) To facilitate orders being placed on EPI Government provides counter guarantees against bank guarantees obtained by EPI. Furthermore, EPI has been permitted to open regional offices in Kuwait and Baghdad for business promotion. Similarly Government assists EPI in negotiations with international financial institutions and foreign governments. Besides all this, whatever reasonable assistance and support EPI might require in their export efforts, it is always made available by the Government.

Manufacture of simple functional T.V. Sets

*575. SHRI R. S. PANDEY: SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any follow up steps have been taken in pursuance of the Prime Minister's advice to the television manufacturers that simple and functional T.V. sets should be designed and their manufacturing and marketing cost be reduced;