

Circulation of the Magazine Published by Indian Academy of Science

703. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-
CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Resonance magazine published by the Indian Academy of Science, has become very popular;

(b) if so, what is its present circulation; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure that its copies reach all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. YOGENDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The present circulation is close to 9,000 copies.

(c) A promotion drive has been undertaken by the Academy by writing letters, sending specimen copies and posters to over 20,000 schools and colleges and about 2,000 other institutions in the country.

Fraudulent Claims of Inventions by Scientists

704. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidence of fraudulent claims of inventions by scientists in the country has been on the rise;

(b) if so, what are the details of such fraudulent claims by the Indian scientists that have come to Government's notice

stating their names and claims about inventions; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government against the scientists found involved in such fraudulent claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. (PROF. YOGENDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) Government have no information to substantiate that there is rise in the fraudulent claims of inventions by scientists in the country. Nevertheless, the research institutions have built-in mechanisms to deal with such claims based on scientific and/or peer group scrutiny.

LPSC in Tamil Nadu

705. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that wards of the families of farmers whose lands were acquired for setting up Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu, have not been provided with any employment so far;

(b) if so, by when they would be provided with employment;

(c) whether a highly dangerous integrated Liquid Hydrogen Plant was commissioned last year;

(d) if so, what kind of danger or risk people living around the plant are exposed to;

(e) what are the reasons for constructing residential complex for the scientists and staff of LPSC at Nagercoil, 26 Kilometers away, while the affected families are living around the plant;

(f) whether Government propose to pay compensation to the owners of land

at the rate of Rs. 2000 per one cent of land, to mitigate the hardship of farmers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGENDER K. ALAGH): (a) (b) (f) & (g) The land for the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) Project of the Department of Space (DOS) in Mahendragiri was acquired through the Government of Tamil Nadu. Only dry patta land was acquired giving adequate compensation as determined by the State Government. At the time of acquisition of the land, no commitment was made by this Department for giving employment to the local people on evictee status.

Since the LPSC facilities are located both in the Nellai Kattakbomman District and Kanyakumari District, the LPSC, from inception, has been notifying its vacancies for Groups C and D posts to the employment exchanges in both the Districts and has been requesting them to give preference to the local people while sponsoring candidates.

The LPSC has also advised the contractors who undertake sporadic construction activities and other miscellaneous works in LPSC, Mahendragiri, to engage only local people for carrying out such jobs.

(c) and (d) To meet the requirement of liquid hydrogen which is used as a fuel in the Cryogenic Stage of the GSLV, a 500 kg. per day capacity plant has been established in Mahendragiri. Even when the Integrated Liquid Hydrogen Plant (ILHP) was set up, all safety norms such as maximum safety distance required, suitable electrical fittings and adequate fire fighting systems etc., have been followed. Several expert reviews have been conducted on the safety aspects of the ILHP and these have been taken into

account and statutory clearances from the Chief Controller of Explosives have been obtained.

(e) The Department decided to construct the quarters in Nagercoil taking into account the availability of infrastructural facilities like schools and colleges, hospitals, marketing and recreation facilities and better communication and public transport system at Nagercoil. In case the staff quarters were to be constructed at Mahendragiri, the employees, who are already living at Nagercoil would be put to considerable inconvenience as no facilities are available in and around Mahendragiri. However, quarters for Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and other essential staff who have to work round the clock and are required for security duty, have been constructed in the project site at Mahendragiri. It has also been decided by the Department to acquire some land to take up construction of some quarters at Valliyoor which is nearer to Mahendragiri, to cater the requirement of the employees staying in and around Mahendragiri.

Waiving of Ceiling to Encourage Housing Activities by Uttar Pradesh Government

706. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Hindustan Times, dated January 11, 1997, captioned "Uttar Pradesh Government simplifies norms for housing";

(b) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh had, *inter-alia*, announced at a Seminar that to encourage housing activities, current ceiling of 12.5 acres would be waived, if land acquired was for non-agricultural use or colonisation;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether the above decision would cover the cooperative housing societies also; if not, the reasons therefor; and