

AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d) An initial proposal was received from the Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA) for setting up a 30 MW solar thermal power project near Bhuj in Gujarat. Generation of power through the solar thermal route is a new technology which is site specific, capital intensive and depends upon various techno-economic factors. In view of this, it is planned to first take up an R&D project during the 8th Plan. The request made by GEDA was examined alongwith other proposals and not found favourable for the first R&D project.

Bio-Gas Plants in Gujarat

87. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to install bio-gas plants in each district of Gujarat upto 31st October, 1993 is under Government's consideration;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to formulate any special programme to provide financial help and technology to install the same; and

(c) what are the number of bio-gas plants set up in Gujarat district-wise and year-wise, with the help of Central Government during the last five years and what results have been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Bio-gas Development Programme for setting up of bio-gas plants is under implementation in the whole country including all the districts of Gujarat.

(b) No special programme is under consideration of this Ministry for installation of bio-gas plants in Gujarat. However, under the existing biogas development programme of this Ministry, financial assistance is being provided for installaton

of biogas plants in the form of Central subsidy, promotional incentives, turn-key job fees etc.

(c) A total of 119194 family type biogas have been set up in the State of Gujarat during the period 1988-89 to 1992-93 under National Project on Biogas Development. Besides, 55 community, institutional and night soil based biogas plants have also been set up in the State during this period under community, institutional, night soil based biogas plants programme. Year-wise and District-wise information on number of family type biogas plants and community, institutional and night soil based biogas plants installed during the period from 1988-89 to 1992-93 is given in Annexure-I [See Appendix CLXIX, Annexure No. 8].

Infrastructure for Improved Chullahs

88. SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the programme for installing improved chullahs which save a vast amount of firewood lacks infrastructural support at various stages;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the programme consequently has suffered from serious lapses by implementing agencies;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Under the National Programme on Improved Chulhas, funds are being provided to the nodal/implementing agencies towards Core organisational support (at the HQ) and other infrastructural facilities. The programme is implemented by States and UTs through their already established networks at the District/Block/Village levels and also through reputed voluntary organisations,