

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) to (c) The estimates of financial resources for the Eighth Plan are yet to be finalised.

(d) and (e) The estimate of resources for the plan will take over all note of the likely revenues and anticipated expenditure under various heads.

Research of space power generation

89. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Space Power Generation Research has been conducted by an Engineer of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India to extract power from vacuum created for this purpose;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

(c) what encouragement has been given to the said engineer for future research;

(d) whether Government have started any specialised research projects on space power generation in the country;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) what is the manner in which Government propose to develop Space Power Generation research in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) to (c) Shri P. Tiwari, Chief Project Engineer of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited claims that energy can be generated from vacuum. Based on this he has developed a machine which he calls a Space Power Generator which operates in the region of 10-15 KWS.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Department of Space (DOS) has been keeping abreast with the developments made internationally for generation of power from Space. However, even internationally, in view of complex technologies involved and their associated uncertainties, no major plan of development has been taken up.

Teaching of Space Science and Technology in Universities

90. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Space Science and Technology is not being taught at Degree level or post graduate level in the Indian Universities;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government could consider to introduce a course at Degree level on Space Science and Technology in all Indian Universities;

(d) if so, what would be the scheduled programme of such a new course of study; and

(e) if answer to part (a) be in negative, what are the details of the institutions / Universities teaching Space Science and Technology in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) to (e) According to information furnished by University Grants Commission, space science is a multi-disciplinary subject which includes studies on Physics, Mathematics, Atmospheric Science, Rocketry, Astronomy, Astrophysics, etc Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani offers M.E. programmes in Space Engineering, Rocketry

and Rocket propulsion and Punjabi University, Patiala offers M.Sc. programme in Astronomy and Space Science. Andhra University provides a post-M.Sc. diploma course in Space Science and Technology. The Commission also provides support to eight universities for M.Sc. programmes in Atmospheric Sciences.

The courses/programmes to be offered by Universities are decided by the universities themselves. However, UGC is of the view that since science and technology is a multi-disciplinary subject a specific course encompassing all branches of space science and technology would be difficult to introduce as a part of the undergraduate curricula.

Line of Affluence

91. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal of Line of Affluence; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. "Line of affluence" has been used as an expression to convey the idea that excessive accumulation of unproductive wealth is undesirable.

Irrigation projects in Maharashtra pending clearance

92. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) which Irrigation Projects of Maharashtra are pending clearance from Environment & Forest angle; and

(b) what are the reasons for this pending and when they are likely to be cleared giving the details, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROURAY): (a) and (b) The status of irrigation projects of Maharashtra awaiting environmental and forestry clearance is given below:

Environmental Clearance

1. Lower Wunna Irrigation project.
2. Wagbur Irrigation project.

} On the basis of environmental data furnished these projects will be discussed by the Appraisal Committee in its next meeting.

Forest Clearance

1. Minor Irrigation Tank, Wadnera, Distt. Aurangabad.
2. Huvani Irrigation project, Distt. Raigarh.
3. Karasai Minor Irrigation project, Distt. Pune.

} To be discussed by the Advisory Committee in its next meeting.
 } Under process.