

polysilicon plant of the National Silicon Facility. Such hyper-pure polysilicon is the most important and critical material for our semiconductor and photovoltaic programme.

The Technology selected for NSF's polysilicon plant is not at all obsolete. M/s. Hemlock is the world's second largest polysilicon producer with a 25 per cent world market share, all of the world's top four producers of polysilicon are all using the same technology which M/s. Hemlock is using and is to transfer to our NSF for its polysilicon plant viz. the polysilicon production technology based on Trichloresilane (TCS) as feed stock. What is more, the top three polysilicon producers have either already expanded or are in the process of expanding, their plants using the same basic TCS technology. Thus, the process chosen for the NSF's polysilicon plant is an entirely contemporary one. The cost of production of polysilicon based on the only alternate process technologies in commercial production viz. that based on Silane as the feed stock has been found by Government to be very much higher than that based on the Trichrosilane process.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The estimated annual requirement is at least 200 tonnes/year by 1990. At present, there is no production of polysilicon in the country. Imports of polysilicon equipment during 1981, 1982 and 1983 are estimated to be around 2.3 tonnes, 5.4 tonnes and 10.6 tonnes respectively.

Exploration of Gold deposits in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

*268. SHRI T. THANGABALU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether exploration of gold deposits has been undertaken in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in recent years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): (a) No investigation for gold as such has been carried out in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(b) Does not arise.

Air and water pollution

*269. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what effective measures have so far been taken to tackle the problems of air and water pollution in the country?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 have been enacted. As per the provisions of the Act, the Central Board and the State Pollution Control Boards in all the States, except Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura have been set up.

Water Pollution: As water pollution is mainly due to industrial and domestic waste, the Boards are being strengthened to progressively direct the industries to treat their effluents before discharging them into the water bodies. During the 7th Plan period it is also proposed to tackle the problem of sewage pollution which quantitatively contributes to almost 70 per cent of sewage pollution. In coordination with the Ministry of Works & Housing a system is being worked out of giving subsidies and soft loans for municipal sewerage and treatment programmes.

The Central and State Boards have established 240 monitoring stations in the country to assess the problem of pollution.

Re-calcitrant industries are being prosecuted.