

Development of Hilly and Inaccessible Areas by Developing Horticulture

2809. SHRI HUSEN DALWAI: Will the Minister of PLANNING pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the development of horticulture in the hilly and inaccessible areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b) Hilly and inaccessible areas have been found, from the agro-climatic point of view, eminently suited for development of horticulture and plantation crops. Efforts have been made for development of horticulture in these areas during the successive plans. In the Sixth Plan, the emphasis has been on growth of high-value low-volume crops and products in areas. For development of horticulture steps have been taken to create basic infrastructure in the shape of establishment of foundation seeds and seed multiplication farms; land development work including soil conservation; distribution of planting materials, fertilisers and pesticides at subsidised prices to small and marginal farmers; development of marketing and processing facilities for the horticulture produce etc.

Development of Electronics Industry

2810. SHRI HUSEN DALWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made in the field of electronics so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that many parts of television are now manufactured by local entrepreneurs in the country; and

(c) what steps have so far been taken by Government to encourage the development of electronics industry in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) and (c) The information is being compiled.

(b) All the components needed for the manufacture of Black & White TV Receivers are being manufactured indigenously.

Exploitation of Mineral Resources

2811. SHRI HUSEN DALWAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that huge quantities of mineral deposits in India are yet to be exploited; and

(b) whether Government propose to get surveys conducted for the exploitation of these resources by the State-wise Mineral Corporations and by private agencies as well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) A number of deposits of various minerals are known to exist in the country. Exploitation of the known deposits is linked with current domestic and export demand for different minerals and hence some of the deposits have been exploited commensurate with these demands.

(b) Prior to exploitation of mineral deposits, surveys and exploration for arriving their reserve potential are necessary. Surveys for minerals is a continuous process and is being carried out all over the country by Geological Survey of India, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited and State Directorates of Mining and Geology in their respective selected operational areas according to their programmes. The Planning Commission has constituted a Sub-group for forecasting requirement of exploration for minerals during Seventh Five Year Plan. The exploration programme will be executed by various agencies like