

(b) whether the Swedish Government have offered to transfer to India a highly effective technology for safe storage of low and medium level nuclear waste; and

(c) if so, whether Government have accepted the offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, SPACE AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Financial assistance to economically backward States**

†1678. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to increase allocation of financial assistance to economically backward States like Uttar Pradesh under different heads during the current financial year; and

(b) what assistance the Central Government is giving to States whose credit-deposit ratio is low?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) The method of allocation of Central assistance for State Plans gives weightage to economically backward States. Out of the total Central assistance allocable to the States, the requirement of the eight special category States which are all backward is first pre-empted. The balance is allocated to the non-special category States under the modified Gadgil formula which, inter-alia, assigns 20 per cent weightage

to the States, such as Uttar Pradesh, having per capita income below the national average. Besides, special market borrowings are also made available to backward States such as Uttar Pradesh having per capita income below the national average.

†1679. [Transferred to the 15th May, 1985.]

**Seventh Five Year Plan Outlay of Rajasthan**

1680. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan's Seventh Five Year Plan has since been finalised by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, what is its approved outlay;

(c) whether the Rajasthan Government had urged for evolving a formula for more Central Assistance for the backward areas;

(d) if so, what is the Commission's reaction thereto;

(e) whether the Chief Minister of Rajasthan has also requested that the schemes involving huge financial outlays like the Indira Gandhi Canal, lignite-based super power station, desert development and drinking water arrangements should be completed by Centre; and

(f) if so, what action Central Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The approved outlay for Rajasthan's Seventh Plan is Rs. 3,000 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Any change in the principles of distribution of Central assistance can be made only by the National Development Council.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Requirements of some of these sectors and projects have been kept in view in determining the amount of Central assistance and plan outlays.

†Previously Unstarred Question No. 681 transferred from the 7th March, 1985.