

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH): (a) and (b) Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology, Trivandrum has shown high degree of competence in the development of following important bio-medical devices:

- (i) plastic bags for the collection fractionation and storage of blood; (ii) cardiomy reservoir, (iii) vascular grafts, (iv) prosthetic heart valve, (v) disposable blood oxygenator.

The detailed stage of development of these items are given in the Annual Report 1980-81 of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum which was placed on the House on 18-3-1982.

Energy tree

668. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any information to the effect that Scientists in Philippines have discovered a new 'energy' whose nut can be used as a torch or lamp;

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

(c) whether Government propose to cultivate this said tree in our country, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the

tree in Philippines whose nuts have been used to yield an oil similar to kerosene. The common name of the plant is "Wax Tree" and the botanical name is 'Aleurites-moluccana' (family Euphorbiaceae). It is a native of Philippines, Malaysia and some other countries in the Pacific Islands. The nuts of the tree yield an oil called "Tung Oil" which is rich in Hydrocarbons. The oil is used for lighting purposes and for manufacture of paints and varnishes.

(c) and (d) The tree is also cultivated and grows wild in South India and Assam. This species, in addition to other fast-growing and hydrocarbon-yielding species has been identified for further details investigation including field trials under the programme on production of Biomass sponsored by the Commission for Additional Sources of Energy.

Promotion of solar research

669. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the solar research and promotion budget of the U.S. Government is bigger than the entire Research and Development Budget of India; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take provide adequate support to the country's solar scientists, both morally and financially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir, However, funds allocated in India for new and renewal sources of energy, including solar energy, have been modest; though with the setting up of the Commission for Additional Sources of Energy last year, allocation and utilization have significantly increased, as compared with the previous years. It is expected that the allocations would in-

creased further during the remaining years of the Sixth Plan. The Programmes being carried out through the Commission, involve the participation of scientists and engineers throughout the country.

Import of Technology

670. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a plan to import technology from abroad especially from U.K.;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what incentives Government propose to give to the scientists who desire to settle India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH) (a) and (b) Import of technology is governed by well established procedures and regulations. In any import of technology adequate note is taken of the current technology available in the country and of the need for importing technology. As import of "technology is based on the above and the merits of each case, there is no plan, to import a particular technology from a specific country without consideration of all relevant factors.

(c) Government have given a number of incentives to scientists and other Indian professionals resident abroad who wish to return to set up new industries and enterprises. In addition, Government have a number of schemes for those scientists who wish to return to work in India. Some of them are given below:

(i) Moneys and values of assets brought into India at the time of their return are exempt from Wealth Tax for a period of 7 years.

(ii) Exemption for a period of five years from the requirement of

surrendering their foreign exchange currency balance.

(iii) Entitlement to the extent of 25 per cent of the foreign exchange brought by them into the country for certain specified purposes.

(iv) They can import without any limit capital goods except of the banned type.

(v) Import of raw materials, components, consumables and spares for meeting the requirements of three years subject to a maximum of Rupees five lacs for each year.

(vi) Import of office equipment and furniture upto a limit of Rs. one lac provided it was used abroad for a period of 1 year by the re-turning Indians.

Battery-powered Van

671. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is fact that a battery-powered van which does not require any fuel for operation has been developed under a project supported by the Commission for Additional Sources the Commission for Additional Sources of Energy (CASE);

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

(c) by when the Commercial manufacture of such vans likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prototypes of such vans have a seating capacity of 12 persons and a range of approx 75 km between charges. The batteries are charged from 230 volt, 3 phase AC supply and thus do not require diesel or petrol and provide pollution-free transportation. Prototypes are presently undergoing extensive trials. Further development of the prototype is cur-