

**Pact on Solar Energy with a foreign Country**

1194. SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDIN SHEIKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any pact on Solar Energy has been signed recently with any foreign country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH): (a) and (b) No specific pact on Solar Energy has been signed with any foreign country. However, cooperation in research and development relating to solar energy is being carried out between organisations in India and some foreign countries under the respective Agreements for cooperation in science and technology with these countries. The cooperation is in the form of exchange of scientists, exchange of information and exchange of equipment and prototypes. Among the countries with which such arrangements have been worked out are: Australia, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, U.S.A. and U.S.S.R.

**Space programme in collaboration with U.K.**

1195. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for future collaboration in space programme between India and the U.K. were discussed with the top British space consultants during their three week visit to India recently;

(b) if so, whether any final decision has been taken in this regard;

(c) whether any programme has also been finalised;

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

(e) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Government of India and the Government of the United Kingdom on collaboration in Space activities under which various joint activities in the area of Space Research are to be considered. As provided under the Memorandum of Understanding, two British consultants recently visited India for exchange of information between the Indian scientists and the British consultants.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

**Simplification of procedure for grant of advance from provident fund**

@1196. SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present procedure for obtaining advance from the provident fund has been simplified; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): (a) The Ministry of Home Affairs administer the following Provident Funds:—

(i) General Provident Fund (Central Services).

@ Previously Unstarred Question 430 transferred from the 13th July, 1982.