

Use of Solar Energy

2912. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that experiments have revealed that solar energy is more expensive than the conventional energy;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the extent to which solar energy is being used in our country and whether it has reached the satisfactory stage; and

(c) what are the prospects and potentialities for use of this source to meet our energy requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT (SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH): (a) to (c) The initial cost of most of the solar devices today is higher than that of devices based on conventional fuels. However the operating costs are negligible in the solar devices and considerable in the conventional devices. The overall economic comparison shows some solar devices to be reaching, or on the threshold of, economic competitiveness with conventional alternatives in different regions of the country. These are being taken up for large scale demonstration and field trials. Such devices include Solar Water Heaters, Solar Dryers/Wood Seasoning Plants, Solar Stills, Solar Cold Storage Plants, Solar Photovoltaic Pumps etc. The results so far achieved are satisfactory. These demonstration scheme have shown that solar devices are capable of supplementing the existing sources of energy in domestic, industrial and

agriculture sectors. More than two dozen manufacturers have already started manufacturing Solar Thermal devices. It is expected that with technology improvements and increase in volume of production, nuts will reduce and solar energy could provide an increasing supplement to the conventional sources of energy.

Backwardness in Orissa

2913. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any provision or any special programme for the removal of the backwardness and poverty from the Orissa during the Sixth Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details of this programme and progress made so far in the State of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Sixth Plan of Orissa provides for various poverty alleviation programmes which, *inter alia*, include Integrated Rural Development Programme, National Rural Employment Programme, Drought Prone Areas Programme and Minimum Needs Programme. The Programmes of welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes also provide for various social and economic benefits to these sections of the society, besides supplementing the living standards of the poor through the provision of basic amenities of life under the National Minimum Needs Programme.

The progress as reported by the State Government of Orissa under these programme during the Sixth Plan is given as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Programme	1980-85 approved outlay	1980-81 Actual	1981-82 Anticipated Ex- penditure
1. Special Programme of Rural Development (IRD, DPAP, & NREP, etc.)	105.00	6.67	17.27
2. Welfare of SC, ST and Other Backward Classes	14.00	2.03	2.30
3. Flow of Funds to Special Component Plan for SCs	162.01	18.59	22.59
4. Flow of Funds to Tribal Sub-Plan	358.45	86.64	95.19
5. Minimum Needs Programme	143.84	21.72	23.79