

(ग) सरकार ने वैज्ञानिकों के सम्मान को बनाए रखने के लिए इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

विज्ञान तथा प्रौद्योगिकी, इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी तथा पर्यावरण विभागों में राज्य मंत्री (श्री चन्द्र प्रताप नारायण सिंह) : (क) जी हाँ। विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग के चार वैज्ञानिकों के त्यागपत्र पदोन्नतियों के प्रश्न के साथ सम्बन्धित नहीं हैं। इन वैज्ञानिकों ने मुख्य रूप से वैयक्तिक कारणों से त्यागपत्र दिये थे।

(ख) कोई नहीं।

(ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Use of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful purposes

496. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state—

(a) what is the latest position in regard to our efforts for the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes; and

(b) whether any steps have been taken to acquire the latest technology in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT (SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAYAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The latest position with regard to India's nuclear efforts for peaceful purposes is that considerable progress has been made in the problems connected with Fast Breeder Test Reactors, use of atomic energy in agriculture, medicine and industry besides generation of power. The main areas of application are:—

I. Agriculture

(i) Development of new mutants of various fibre crops, cereals, pulses, etc.

(ii) Sterilisation of certain pests by radiation techniques.

(iii) Radiation preservation of food in natural form for extended periods.

II. Medicine

(i) Special diagnostic and therapeutic techniques using radiosotopes.

(ii) Radiation sterilisation of medical products.

III. Industry

(i) Use of radioisotopes in industry.

(ii) Inspection techniques and other radiation based procedures.

Within the resources available to the Government, every effort is made to undertake research and development in all aspects of peaceful utilisation of nuclear energy and to keep the country abreast of the latest developments.

Minimum Needs Programme

497. SHRI PATITPABAN PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the recent evaluation, the three major programmes—the Integrated Rural Development Programme, the National Rural Employment Programme and the Minimum Needs Programme, have not made any headway; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard stating the reasons therefor and what are the steps contemplated by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.