

Development of Backward areas other than Tribal, Hilly and drought prone Areas

1445. SHRI G. R. MHAISEKAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government propose to take for the accelerated development of Backward areas other than tribal, Hilly and drought prone areas in the country; and

(b) whether Government have decided to have a special "cell" in the Planning Commission for such backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) The problem of regional disparities and backwardness has been sought to be tackled by (i) resource transfers to these areas, (ii) Special Development Programmes and (iii) measures to promote private investment in these areas. Besides schemes specifically for hill areas, tribal areas and drought prone areas, the three steps outlined above are for the benefit of other regions/areas which do not fall in these categories. The Plan provisions for Integrated Rural Development, Area Planning and Minimum Needs are for the benefit of all areas in the country. However it is expected that the principal beneficiaries would be the people living in backward areas however defined.

The strategy or strategies for the development of backward areas would crystallise in the light of the recommendations of the National Committee for the Development of Backward Areas under the Chairmanship of Shri B. Sivaraman, a former Member of Planning Commission.

(b) No, Sir.

Study of indigenous feasibility of Nuclear power generation

1446. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the progress so far made in the study of feasibility of indigenous Nuclear power generation on the basis of fast breeder technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): The Reactor Research Centre, Kalpakam was established to develop fast breeder technology in the country. A Fast Breeder Test Reactor which is in an advanced stage of construction at the Centre would facilitate studying the indigenous feasibility of power generation on the basis of fast breeder technology.

Surveys of the Indian Ocean

1447. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main results of surveys so far conducted for the mining of the Indian Ocean by the Ocean Science Board; and

(b) whether the five or six promising areas south of the Andamans are proposed to be taken up for detailed quantification of resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) and (b) No surveys have so far been conducted by the Board of Ocean Science and Technology Agency (OSTA) for the mining of the Indian Ocean.