

(f) and (g). The previous Planning Commission prepared a draft Five Year Plan for 1978—83 in April, 1978 and prepared a revised draft in November, 1979. But the revised draft could not be considered either by the Cabinet or by the National Development Council. It was decided to publish the document to generate public discussion. The reconstituted Planning Commission decided in April, 1980 to formulate a new Five-Year Plan for the period 1980—85 reflecting the priorities of the new Government. A fresh exercise was necessary, in any case, in view of the decline in national income, steep rise in prices and a significant deterioration in the outlook for balance of payments in the wake of a sharp rise in import prices of petroleum in 1979-80 all of which made the assumptions of the previous Plan operationally irrelevant.

(h) The new Draft Sixth Five Year Plan is still under preparation. It is being formulated on the basis of the objectives, the programme thrusts and the targets for growth and additional resource mobilisation outlined in the Framework of the Sixth Plan which has been laid on the Table of the House.

Teachers and Student's participation in training plans at Villages, Block and District Levels

2556. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering any plan to associate the teachers and students of the local institutions to frame plans at the village, block and district level;

(b) whether Government is considering any proposal to assign them survey work of this grass root level plan; and

(c) whether Government also propose to utilise the services of the students of IIT, Poly-technics and en-

gineering colleges during their holidays for making feasibility Reports of the plans developed at grass root level?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (c). No, Sir. There is no specific plan under consideration.

Working of Public Sector undertakings

2557. SHRI HARVENDAR SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a panel of experts headed by a member of the planning Commission has been constituted to go into the working of public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, whether this panel has so far examined any of the undertakings; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir, in respect of the major units in coal, fertilisers and chemicals, engineering, shipping and steel sectors.

(b) and (c) Companies in the coal sector have been examined by this panel. A report on the subject has been submitted to the Government and the same is under consideration.

Shortfall in production

2558. SHRI HARVENDAR SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that low utilisation of production capacities by industry is costing the country a lot of foreign exchange by way of importing the shortfalls in production indigenously;

(b) whether any survey has been made in this regard; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While the Government is aware of the situation and necessary remedial measures to improve capacity utilisation are being taken, no official survey in this regard has been carried out.

(c) Does not arise.

New Development Project attached to Thumba Space Centre

2559, SHRI K. C. SEBASTIAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the main departments being developed in Thumba Space Centre at Trivandrum;

(b) whether any new development project has been attached to the Thumba Space Centre which started during Sixth Plan period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH):

(a) The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre is the major Centre dealing with the rocket and launch vehicle activities of the Indian Space Programme. The ongoing projects and the new activities taken up in this Centre have been reported on comprehensive in the Annual Report of the Department of Space, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

(b) and (c). During the Sixth Plan period the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre will be engaged in projects for improving the technology and payload capabilities of SLV-3 launch vehicle, developing its variants for enhanced payloads.

1479 RS—3

Formulation of Science Policy

2560. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) when the Science Policy of Government was formulated;

(b) what are its operative clauses;

(c) whether its working has been reviewed or is proposed to be reviewed;

(d) if so, when and in what manner;

(e) whether Government propose to place the review of the Science Policy before Parliament for discussion;

(f) if so, when; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH):

(a) The Scientific Policy Resolution of Government, was enunciated on 4th March, 1958.

(b) The aims of the Scientific Policy of Government as outlined in the above Resolution are:

(i) to foster, promote and sustain by all appropriate means, the cultivation of sciences, and scientific research in all its aspects—pure, applied and educational;

(ii) to ensure an adequate supply, within the country, of research scientists of the highest quality, and to recognise their work as an important component of the strength of the nation;

(iii) to encourage and initiate, with all possible speed, programmes for the training of scientific and technical personnel, on a scale adequate to fulfil the country's needs in science and education, agriculture and industry, and defence;