

Review of Science Policy

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

(a) whether the Government propose to review science policy with a view to accelerating application of science and technology to rural areas;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether a new science and technology plan is being formulated; and

(d) if so, by when it will be ready and whether the same will be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE CHARGE OF PRIME MINISTER (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) and (b). Government have adopted a Scientific Policy Resolution in March 1958, which signifies Government's faith in science and technology and its intent to apply it for socio-economic development of the country as a whole and this would include development of rural areas. The National Committee on Science and Technology reviewed the Scientific Policy Resolution and concluded that no changes were necessary.

(c) and (d). Work is in progress. On science and technology component of the new five year plan for the period 1980—85; in this exercise longer range aspects are also being kept in mind. Aspects relating to the S&T sector will be incorporated as an integral part of the Five Year Plan document that will be finalised by the Planning Commission.

Invention of hybrid groundnut seed by Atomic Energy Commission

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

(a) whether the Atomic Energy Commission have worked out

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through nuclear application, a hybrid groundnut seed of double size;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what is the likely impact of this invention on production of groundnut;

(d) whether it is likely to affect the fertility of the soil adversely in the long run; and

(e) if so, what protective measures are suggested by the AEC to safeguard the fertility of soil?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two varieties, TG-18 and 19A have been developed with a seed weight of 1.0 to 1.5 gms. as against 0.4 to 0.6 gm. weight of the ordinary groundnut

(c) These are table varieties and will mainly have an export interest.

(d) Our experimental cultivation of these varieties has not shown any unusual impact on soil condition.

(e) Does not arise.

Supply of nuclear fuel by USA

367. SHRI J. K. JAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what progress Government have achieved so far with regard to the pending delivery of nuclear fuel to India by the U.S. Government?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): On June, 19, 1980 the President of the United States authorised the export of both the pending shipments of enriched uranium by an executive order which would be subject to review by the U.S. Congress for 60 days of continuous session. This period of congressional review is expected to conclude by end September 1980. The debate on the subject is continuing in the U.S. Congress.