THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE (SHRI SHER SINGH): (a) and (b) Solar energy devices for use by small industrial units and such other purposes, are under development, A statement indicating the main areas of R&D being undertaken in this regard at present is attached.

Statement

Utilisation of solar energy for a wide range of applications, with special emphasis on its use in rural areas, has been given high priority by Government. Organised Research and Development, with financial inputs provided by the Department of Science & Technology (DST), has led to the successful prototype development of solar energy devices and systems such as: solar dryers for certain agricultural products; solar water, air and space heating systems for small/medium scale industrial applications and for domestic use; solar refrigeration (cold storage) unit; solar-energised desalination plant; solar photovoltaic cells and modules for direct conversion of solar energy into electricity. Programmes in these areas are also being carried out under the aegis of CSIR and by public and private sector units.

2. Studies have been initiated for assessing the techno-economic feasibility of solar drying of a variety of agricultural and food products, as well as in industry. A project for design and development of a solar energy cold storage unit, using absorption refrigeration has been successfully completed at IIT, Bombay. Labratory scale R&D work has resulted in the fabrication of silicon photovoltaic cells and panels for direct conversion of solar energy into electricity. Further R&D work is planned in this area, especially to make photovoltaic systems cost-effective for application in rural areas (for community lighting, radio and TV, for pumping drinking water and micro-irrigation). A project for the design, development and fabrication of a solar-powered water pumping system is being undertaken by BHEL in collaboration with the Federal Republic of Germany. An experimental solar thermal power plant for generation of electricity has been installed jointly by BHEL and IIT (Madras). The programme of intensified R&D work in solar energy also covers the development of polycrystalline solar cells, MOS solar cells, corrosion resistant materials for absorber plates, selective coatings and paints to improve efficiency of solar collector systems, fabrication of paraboloid surface and paraboloid dishes and tracking systems, solar desalination systems etc.

Appointment of a committee to consider restructuring the CSIR and the Department of Science and Technology

276. SHRI DEVENDRA NATH DWIVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a five-man committee to consider restructuring the CSIR and the Department of Science and Technology; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE (SHRI SHER SINGH): (a) and (b) With a view primarily to studying the existing respective roles of the Department of Science & Technology and of CSIR headquarter and making appropriate recommendations redefining the same so as to ensure effective and complementary role among these and other agencies, Government have decided to set up a Committee consisting of the following:

(i) Shri V. Shankar, Principal Secretary to P.M.—*Chairman.*

(ii) Shri J. P. Kacker, Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.—Member.

(iii) Prof. M. G. K. Menon, Secretary, DST & DG CSIR—Member.

(iv) Prof. B. M. Udgaonkar, Special Adviser to Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.—Member.

(v) Secretary to the Committee.

The terms of reference of this Committee are as follows:

(1) To study broadly the existing respective roles of the CSIR and the DST and make appropriate recommendations redefining the same so as to ensure an effective and complementary role among these and other agencies.

(2) To examine the structure particularly of the senior level staff at the Headquarters of the above mentioned agencies and make suitable recommendations for ensuring optimum efficiency.

(3) To make such other recommendations on connected and ancillary matters which the committee may consider necessary or desirable to make.

277. [*Transferred to the 20th July, 1979*].

Price rise as a remedy against inflationary trends

278. SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission had suggested price-rise as a remedy against inflationary trends;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision to allow rise in prices; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to help the weaker sections of society to meet the challenge of price rise?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In case of certain articles such as Steel, Aluminium and Cement Government had to agree to rise in prices on commercial considerations otherwise in no case have prices been raised as a matter of policy.

(c) These include a further expansion of the public distribution system *w.e.f.* July 1, 1979, take over of the release of stocks of sugar by the Government, releases of larger stocks of edible oils on the market by the public agencies, etc. A number of measures which have recently been adopted to control rise in prices *e.g.* moderating the rate of monetary expansion, curb on bank credit to the commercial sector particularly for the essential commodities like oilseeds/edible oils, pulses, and sugar, economies in non-developmental expenditure of the Central Government, etc. are also likely to help the weaker sections of the society.

Recurring demand for heavy water

279. SHRI PATTIAM RAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is expected to be self-sufficient by the end of 1983 from indigenous sources to meet recurring demand for heavy water; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC