

### Rural Bias Science and Technology Plan

600. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to give a rural bias to science and technology plan; and

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

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details regarding the Science and Technology Plan programmes in different sectors with a rural bias are being worked out.

### Fuel Policy Committee's recommendations

601. SHRI SYED AHMED HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the recommendations of the Fuel Policy Committee; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the recommendations accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The recommendations of the Fuel Policy Committee have been considered by the Government and by and large, they have been accepted in principles.

(b) A statement giving the recommendations of the Fuel Policy Committee and the decisions of the Government thereon is enclosed [See Appendix VII, Annexure No. 48].

### Chinese Armed Forces on Indo-tibet Border

602. SHRI GHAYOORE ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there has been an increase in the overall strength of the

Chinese armed forces in Tibet particularly in areas along the Indian border?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): There are no indications of any increase in the overall strength of the Chinese armed forces in Tibet including areas along the Indo-Tibetan border.

### Stoppage of import of raw material used in production of consumer goods

603. SHRI GHAYOOR ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Companies in the country which use imported raw material in the manufacture of consumer goods with foreign collaboration and the items of consumer goods produced by them;

(b) whether Government propose to stop the import of all these materials used in production of consumer goods with a view to strengthening the Indian economy and indigenous industry; and

(c) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

(b) and (c) One of the broad objectives of the import policy for 1977-78 is to increase industrial production, maintain the price line, particularly with respect to items of mass consumption. In devising the policy for individual items, a judicious balance has been struck between individual requirements of the industry for imported raw materials and the interests of indigenous manufacturers. The guiding principle has been that the goods which are available from indigenous sources in sufficient quantity should not be allowed to be imported. However, the policy with respect to individual items is kept under constant review in the course of the year, so