

kiln for drying timber has been developed. Recently, a project for using solar energy in milk drying has also been completed. Such driers are reported to have been developed in advanced countries too.

Solar stills and de-salination units.—Use of solar energy for de-salination and purification of water has been developed in U.S.A., Australia and Israel. Solar stills have been developed in our country also and several installations have been put up.

Solar Pumps.—Development of solar pumps in our country is still in the laboratory stage. National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani and Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay have developed solar pumps using different technologies and they are being tested. Some advanced countries are also reported to have developed solar operated engines/pumps. France is reported to have installed solar water pumps in several countries.

Solar Power Generation.—Several countries are working on solar power generation based on conventional technology of absorbing the heat energy from solar radiation and converting it to mechanical energy and then to electrical energy. Small units are reported to have been developed by France and West Germany, U.S.A. and Japan are also reported to be working on development of such units. A project to build a 10 KW solar power unit has been taken up in our country jointly with West Germany.

Solar Cookers.—Solar cookers for domestic use have been developed successfully in the laboratories in our country. However, they have not yet gained social acceptability and brought into commercial use.

Solar Cooling, Refrigeration and Air-conditioning—Research and

Developmental activities are in progress in our country and abroad to use solar energy for space cooling and refrigeration.

Solar Cells.—Solar Cells enable conversion of solar energy directly into electricity. The technology of solar cells for electricity production has been developed. Presently, efforts in our country and abroad are being concentrated on developing cheap cells which will be competitive with other forms of electricity production. A comprehensive programme of Research and Development in this area has been taken up in our country to select promising low cost cells, developed design and technology for their production and establish a pilot plant for production of low cost solar cells panels. Recently, a manufacturing company in our country has announced the production of solar cells in their establishment.

Heavy Engineering Corporation

*103. SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI
KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:
SHRI SAWAI SINGH
SISODIA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of late there has been a sharp decline in the output of the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A combination of factors including: deterioration in industrial relations, irregular power supply and breakdown of four heavy presses have contributed towards the sharp decline in the output of HEC.

(c) Government has constituted a Committee to look into the major demands of the employees of HEC. The Government of Bihar was requested to ensure a sustained and regular power supply to HEC. Power is now being supplied commensurate with the requirements of HEC. The defects in the presses have been rectified and the presses are now functioning in a normal manner.

With the steps taken the production is showing signs of improvement.

Benefits to Neo-Buddhists

*104. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:
SHRI DEORAO PATIL;
SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI:
SHRI KRISHNARAO
NARAYAN DHULAP:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri P. N. Rajbhoj, M.L.C. of Maharashtra, who went on fast and some persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes made a demand for extending the concessions now enjoyed by the Scheduled Castes to the neo-Buddhists; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir. Shri Rajbhoj has since given up his fast.

(b) Central Government have already extended to Neo-Buddhists facilities given to Scheduled Castes, such as grant of post-Matric scholarships, Overseas Scholarships, admission to pre-examination training centres, assistance to girls' hostels and assistance to non-official organisations engaged in their welfare. Government of Maharashtra have also made available reservations in State Services. No reservations, except in favour of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, are made by the Central Government in respect of Central Services

or posts or All India Services. In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1950, no person who professes a religion different from the Hindu or the Sikh religion, shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste.

मोटर एक्सीडेंट क्लेमस ट्रिब्यूनल, दिल्ली के पास लम्बित पड़े दावे

*105. श्री जगन्नाथ भारद्वाज :
क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मोटर एक्सीडेंट क्लेमस ट्रिब्यूनल, दिल्ली के पास 1976 और 1977 में अब तक कितने दावे (i) दायर किए गए और (ii) उसके द्वारा निपटारे गये;

(ख) ट्रिब्यूनल के पास निपटारे के लिये दावे का कौन सा सबसे पुराना मामला अभी भी लम्बित पड़ा हुआ है; और

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि ट्रिब्यूनल मुआवजे के एक मामले को निपटाने में 5 साल से भी अधिक समय लगाता है; यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस संबंध में क्या उपचारी कदम उठाये हैं?

†[Claims pending with the Motor Accident Claim Tribunal, Delhi

*105. SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of claims (i) preferred with, and (ii) disposed of, by the Motor Accident Claim Tribunal in Delhi during 1976 and so far in 1977;

(b) the oldest case of claim which is still pending with the Tribunal for settlement; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Tribunal takes more than five years to dispose of a case of compensation; if so, what remedial steps Government have taken in this regard?]

† [] English translation.