

indigenously developed for the Indian Space Programme. Currently, indigenous development is in progress for about 50 types of space materials including chemical cells, various adhesives, fasteners and electronic components.

(d) and (e) The information in respect of wastelands, land use and forest cover has been generated for entire country, using data from Indian Remote Sensing Satellites. Maps showing groundwater prospects as well as zones suitable for recharge have been prepared for the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, and are under preparation for the States of Gujarat and Orissa.

The respective States have availed these information and maps for management and development of natural resources.

Projects running behind schedule

1586. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects undertaken by Government and how many of them are running behind schedule;

(b) the number of projects closed with reasons and the amount of money wasted therein; and

(c) whether Government have fixed responsibility of anyone for running the projects behind schedule and for closing projects after having invested substantial sums therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As on 1.12.2004, there are 605 central projects costing Rs. 20 crore and above monitored by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation under implementation, of which 243 have time overrun with reference to latest approved schedule.

(b) Fourteen (14) projects costing Rs. 20 crore and above, with a total investment value of Rs. 3062.13 crore, are unfinished as these have been

dropped/foreclosed after incurring an expenditure of Rs. 733.8 crore. The reasons vary from project to project and these include funds constraint, availability of alternatives at low cost, change in planning and considerations of disinvestment.

(c) 27 Standing Committees in the concerned Ministries/Departments have been constituted to look into the reasons for time overrun in projects and fixing responsibility. However, the projects are closed/dropped with the approval of the concerned approving authorities.

National Centre for Soft Computing

1587. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Statistical Institute is planning for setting up of the country's first National Centre for Soft Computing;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed centre; and

(c) what steps the ISI is taking to promote project-based industrial R&D in the country as a part of what has been stated in part (a)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) A center for soft computing research is proposed to be established at the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata with financial assistance from the department of Science and Technology, Government of India. International Center for Pure and Applied Mathematics (CIMPA), France has promised to provide partial support in the form of travel grant to foreign experts for visiting the center.

(b) The salient features of the proposed center are as follows:—

- (i) conducting basic research in soft computing, pattern recognition, image processing, machine intelligence and related fields;
- (ii) demonstrating applications in the focused areas like web mining, bioinformatics and image analysis;
- (iii) developing manpower by (a) imparting training to researchers/students from industry and academia including R&D labs; (b) disseminating, teaching and training material for distance education using multimedia