

(c) and (d) There is no such policy only for ultra mega projects. At present, under the mega power policy of 1998, the power purchasing States shall undertake, in principle, to privatize distribution cities, having a population of more than one million. To avail the benefits of the mega policy, proposed Ultra Mega Power Projects have to adhere to condition laid thereunder. So far, no undertaking has been sought from the States in this regard.

India-US joint industry working group for bio-technology

3912. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India-US joint industry working group for biotechnology has decided to prepare a comprehensive report in three areas — transfer of biomaterials, clinical research and new product development and innovation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached between India and US; and

(d) the steps being taken to implement biotech report in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indo-US industry working group in biotechnology has been set up under the High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG) between the two countries. It is coordinated by FICCI in India and US India Business Council (USIBC) in the US. The Ministry of External Affairs is the nodal agency for HTCG.

The working group in biotechnology has decided to prepare comprehensive reports in the following areas:

- * Transfer of biomaterials
- * New product development and Innovation
- * Clinical research

(c) No separate agreement has been signed for this, as this comes under the broad framework of HTCG.

(d) Issue of implementation of the report will arise only after the report is received from the Indo-US working group in biotechnology.

Transfer of bio-diesel technology for women SHGs

†3913. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madhya Pradesh Government *vide* letter No. 989/CST/JDA/04 dated 5th July, 2004 have requested for transfer of technology for production of Bio-diesel from *Jatropha* so that Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) might get employment;

(b) by when Government would transfer this technology; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) A proposal entitled "Employment Generation of Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) by transferring technology on bio-diesel production from *Jatropha (jatropha curcus)*" was received from M.P. Council of Science and Technology, Bhopal. The proposal was considered by the Expert Committee and it was not found suitable as the proposal did not disclose the extent of production and availability of *Jatropha* in the area in order to make a proper assessment of the proposal.

Loans to drug companies for research and development work

†3914. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided loans to some drug companies for research and development work pertaining to medicines;

(b) if so, the names of such companies and the details of amount of loans; and

(c) the terms of repayment of these loans and the companies which are unwilling to repay these loans?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.