

institutional mechanisms for more effective coordination across energy sub-sectors and to effectively implement policy measures; facilitating and enhancing the role of States in National Energy Policy, etc.

- (d) No time-line has been fixed for finalisation of the proposed policy.

Government initiative under NMSHE

2008. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the initiatives taken by Government under the National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE); and

(b) the details on the budgetary allocation in undertaking the initiatives in the 12 Himalayan States and the amount of unspent funds, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Major initiatives taken under NMSHE are: mapping of most of the institutions and civil society organizations in the Himalayan Region; finalization of four Thematic Task Forces on Himalayan Agriculture, Traditional Knowledge Systems, Forest Resources and Plant Diversity, and Fauna and Wild Life Habitats, anchored around key knowledge institutions in the Himalayan region; networking of related institutions to do focused R and D in different themes of Himalayan eco-system; an Indo-Swiss capacity building programme in glaciology and related areas; multi-lateral mechanism for regional cooperation in the region; and setting up of a National Centre for Himalayan Glaciology. Under the training programmes a number of persons are being trained in the field of glaciology. Also, trainings on community based organizations to relate lab findings in the areas of Vulnerability, Risks and Hazards and Adaptation aspects for the Indian Himalayan Region to real field have been carried out. State Climate Change Centre in six States of IHR *i.e.*, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, have been supported for providing advisory.

(b) The mission has been approved at a total cost of ₹ 550 Crores for the 12th Five Year Plan period. Since the supported programmes under NMSHE are in their preliminary stage of progress, the position of unspent amount of fund would only be available after completion of current plan period.

Australia-India Strategic Research Fund

2009. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: