

New 100 days Employment Scheme

*48. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start a new 100 days employment coordinated programme;

(b) if so, whether Centre has earmarked an approximate Rs.20,000 crores annually for the programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) by when it is likely to be announced, and

(e) details of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) A National Employment Guarantee Act to provide a legal guarantee for at least 100 days of employment in every year per family to every rural, urban poor and lower middle class household is to be enacted. The enactment will take care of the details.

Electrification with the help of solar energy in Assam

*49. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the State of Assam that have been electrified with the help of solar energy schemes during the years 2001-02 and 2002-03;

(b) what is the potential of electricity connections using solar energy in the State; and

(c) how much funds have been allotted to the State under the Solar Village Electrification Scheme during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) 36 remote villages in Cachar District of Assam were electrified through solar photovoltaic systems during the years 2001-02 and 2002-03

(b) As informed by the State Government, there are 2,777 remote villages in Assam, which cannot be electrified through extension of the conventional grid. The average solar radiation in Assam is lower than the

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national average. Solar energy is one of the options for electrification of the remote villages in the State, alongwith other renewable energy options such as small hydro and biomass.

(c) An amount of Rs. 336.7 lakhs was released during 2003-04 for installation of solar photovoltaic systems in Assam.

Theft of encrypted communication codes from DRDO unit, Delhi

*50. SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that on October 4-5,2003, the Indian Defence establishments encrypted communication codes have been stolen from DRDO unit at Delhi;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the theft took place about twelve months ago but till date the codes have not been changed; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) On October 4-5, 2003 a theft took place in Metcalfe House Complex in which 18 CPUs were stolen. It was established from the investigation that the information lost was of non-sensitive nature.

(b) and (c) No communication codes have been stolen.

Slow pace of power reforms

*51. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA;

SHRI RAVULACHANDRASEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether reforms process in the power sector has slowed down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED)(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.