

5. Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) — Main objective is to improve the productivity of the wastelands and living standards of the poor, through a watershed development approach.
6. Drinking water Supply — Which is meant to provide safe-drinking water in rural areas.

**Deputy Chief of Army Staff for Indian Army**

\*54. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to create a post of Deputy Chief of Army Staff for Information System and Training for the Indian Army;
- (b) if so, whether it is part of the modernisation process of the Army; and
- (c) how will this help in creating confidence among its cadre?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Conference of Sports Ministers to spot rural talents in Sports**

\*55. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government had called a conference of all Sports Ministers from different States in the country to try to find ways to spot latent talent amongst youths in villages and rural areas for selecting them for representing the country;
- (b) if so, when was such a conference held;
- (c) what were the decisions taken at the conference; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken to implement the recommendations of the conference?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) to (d) A Conference of State Sports Ministers held on 3.3.2001 discussed the draft National Sports Policy which included issues relating to sports talent search in rural areas.

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RAJYA SABHA

Based on inputs provided by the States in the conference, Government have finalized and approved the National Sports Policy, 2001. Under the policy, the Union Government has undertaken to actively supplement the efforts of the State Governments towards broadbasing of sports and for tapping the latent talent, including in the rural and tribal areas. Efforts are also being made for tapping the latent potential from geographically endowed areas such as swimming in coastal areas and archery in tribal areas. Schemes such as Rural Sports Scheme, Scheme Relating to Infrastructure, National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) and Special Area Games (SAG) have been reviewed and are being implemented to achieve these objectives.

**Electrification of villages with the help of solar energy**

†\*56. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of villages to be electrified during Tenth Five Year Plan with the help of solar energy;

(b) the number of proposals pending with Government for approval for electrification of villages with the help of solar energy and State-wise/proposal-wise details of such proposals alongwith the date of pendency of such proposals;

(c) the reasons for pendency of such proposals with Government;

(d) whether Government have taken any necessary action so far for granting approval to the said proposals, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) No such targets have been fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan for electrification of villages through solar energy;

(b) to (e) Necessary action is taken immediately after a proposal for village electrification is received by the Ministry. The proposal is approved if it is in consonance with laid down guidelines and procedures. Where necessary, additional information and clarifications are sought. Further action is taken after a suitable response has been received. As such, there is no pendency of village electrification proposals in the Ministry.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi