

[19 August, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) whether other Bio-tech Park have been approved by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Department of Bio-technology did receive a proposal from State Government of Gujarat for setting up of Biotechnology Park at Vadodra. As per the approved Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) provisions of Department of Bio-technology for 10th Five Year Plan there is a provision to set up only two Biotech Parks. Till now, this department has already supported two projects in this context in the country, and at present there is no provision in the EFC to support any other project on the Bio-technology Parks. The Science & Technology Department of Government of Gujarat has informed this department that the Planning Commission has already provided them a grant of Rs 15 00 crores for the proposed park.

(d) Yes, Sir. Department of Bio-technology has approved two projects i.e. one Bio-technology Park at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh and one Biotechnology Incubation Centre at Shapoorji Pallonji Bio-tech Park, Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh.

Development of S&T in Nagaland

1770 SHRI T.R. ZELIANG Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state,

(a) the details of Centrally-sponsored schemes and programmes for development and promotion of Science and Technology in the State of Nagaland,

(b) the details of funds allotted to each district of the State for the above stated schemes and programmes during the last three years; and

(c) the details of funds utilized by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) (a) The Ministry of Science and Technology does not have any Centrally-sponsored scheme and programme for development and promotion of Science and Technology in States including the State of Nagaland. However, the Ministry promotes Science & Technology in Nagaland through various measures such as providing assistance to Nagaland Science & Technology Council and

through activities undertaken for S&T awareness creation and popularization, entrepreneurship development, bio-technology applications, natural resource data management, micro hydel and targeted S&T based interventions for weaker sections, women, scheduled castes and tribes etc.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Prediction of monsoon and drought situation

1771. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Meteorological Department is not well-equipped to predict the arrival of Monsoon or the drought situation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the Meteorological Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. IMD is fairly equipped to predict the arrival of monsoon and also the quantum of rainfall expected during the season as a whole which include the probability of drought also. However, the intra-seasonal variability, both in space and time, is not well understood due to lack of high resolution numerical models, especially tuned to tropical weather condition and matching high resolution weather data.

(c) A comprehensive review of the infrastructure required for achieving high resolution weather forecast both, in time and space, was carried out. A proposal to upgrade technology for effecting improvement in observing, forecasting, product generation and dissemination system is being submitted for consideration by the Government.

Failure of Meteorological Department in prediction

1772. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Meteorological Department has badly failed in forecasting weather and its estimates have always been proving wrong;