

would adversely affect the rainfall and lead to submersion of forest and plantation, ecological imbalances, etc : and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) The project report of Barapole Hydro-electric Project in Kodagu District has not been received in Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic examination.

(b) Does not arise.

Utilisation of Non-Conventional Energy

3296. SHRI M. SUBBA REDDY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of protecting the forests, utilisation of non-conventional energy like solar energy are propagated among the public ;

(b) if so, whether any dent in the consumption patterns of energy for domestic purposes has been made ; and

(c) what efforts are being made to popularise the use of the non-conventional energy among the people if the effect is not up to the desired extent ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing several programmes for the development and utilisation of New and Renewable Energy Sources such as biogas, biomass, solar energy, wind energy, and urban wastes. A variety of devices and systems such as biogas plants, improved woodstoves, solar cookers, solar water heating systems, timber kilns, wind pumps etc. are being popularised through programmes of technical support, subsidies, demonstration and awareness promotion. Nearly 5 lakh biogas plants and 9 lakh improved chulhas have already been installed and the popularity of these devices is increasing. These are beginning to make an impact on the energy consumption pattern ; the programmes can be further expanded depending on the funds available.

Family Pension for widows in Postal Department

3297. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received upto 15 November, 1985 in the Postal Department for family pension from widows in respect of Government Memorandum No. 1(ii)85 regarding Pension Unit for family pension ;

(b) the number of widows who have been granted family pension so far pursuant to that memorandum ; and

(c) the time likely to be taken to settle the pending cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Approximately 1600 applications were received.

(b) 173 cases have been finalised.

(c) These are expected to be settled within 3-4 months period.

Expansion of Telecommunication Services in Bihar

3298. SHRI KUNWAR RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the projects included or being included in the Seventh Five Year Plan for expansion of telecommunication services in Bihar ;

(b) the estimated cost involved therein ; and

(c) the number of persons likely to get employment in various circles because of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c) For the Telecommunication Services for the country an outlay of Rs. 4010 crores has been approved by the Planning Commission. Based on this outlay, guidelines have been given to the State units for drawing up their plans. The details of the projects for Bihar will be known after plans for Bihar Circle have been examined.