

post offices are proposed to be opened in Punjab and Haryana during 1986, as of now, in view of the ban on creation of posts.

#### **Bullock Power and Biogas**

4720. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMAN-GALAM : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite being one of the pioneers in starting Biogas technology, the country has only 2—3 lakhs Biogas plants actually operating as against over 7 million in China ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are not paying indepth attention to the upgrading of bullock power including bullock cart which has an estimated investment similar to that of the Railways and if so, concrete plans proposed under Seventh Plan ; and

(c) whether Bullock Cart and Bullock Power would be considered as one of the Technology Missions under Seventh Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Several improved designs of bullock carts and other animal drawn vehicles as well as agricultural implements have been developed for different agro-climatic zones by different agencies. A National programme on Demonstration of Improved bullock carts is under preparation for the Seventh Five Year Plan. A Centre for draught animal power is also proposed to be established.

(b) No, Sir. Over 5.5 lakh biogas plants have been set up in India and evaluation survey studies conducted by independent agencies indicate that over 85% of the plants set up under the National Project for Biogas Development since 1981-82, are in working order on an all India basis. For China earlier reports indicated installation of about 7 million plants while current reports indicate that about 4.5 million plants are only functioning. However, it is not possible to confirm the authenticity of the information with regard to China.

(c) Some areas have been decided for technology missions as mentioned in the President's Address, and a few more are likely to be added based on suggestions of the Science Advisory Council of the Prime Minister. In addition, sectoral/departmental programmes of importance are proposed to be given as much thrust as possible. Accordingly, it is proposed now to give an impetus to programmes relating to bullock power, upgradation, and wider dissemination of improved techniques consistent with the financial resources made available whether it is included as a technology mission or not.

#### **[Translation]**

#### **Shortage of Power in Northern States**

4721. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of power in Northern States of the country and as a result of this shortage cut is being imposed on supply of power to agriculture and industries ;

(b) if so, the annual production and consumption of power in these States (Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan) ;

(c) whether in some of these States generation of power is in excess of their consumption ; and

(d) if so, their names and whether any arrangements have been made for utilisation of their surplus power ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Northern Region as a whole was having a power shortage of 11% during the period April 1985 to February 1986. To contain the demand within availability, power cuts/restrictions are imposed by the States on various consumers. However, agriculture is given priority in supply of power.

(b) Requirement and availability of power during the period April 1985 to