

agencies in these years for the projects in the State of Gujarat.

(c) 42 MWs of wind electric generators, 28 bio-mass gasifiers equivalent to 1.76 MW and 140 KW of SPV systems have been installed in Gujarat for generation of power from Non-Conventional Energy Sources. Besides this, a 500 KW grid connected bio-mass gasifier based power generation is under operation in Gujarat since 1993-94.

(d) 900 MWs wind power generation projects are under various stages of discussion with the State Govt. A 500 KW—bagasse based co-generation project is expected to be commissioned during 1995-96 in Gujarat.

Cement Prices

436. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether cement prices have zoomed in the country and the manufacturers have jacked up the prices to unprecedented levels recently;

(b) if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check price rise and give relief to the small consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). No, Sir. There has been no abnormal increase in prices of cement except in Bombay. The wholesale price index (WPI) during the last three years was much below the WPI of other manufactured products and all commodities. However, recently there was an increase in the price of cement in Bombay which appears to be a temporary and local phenomenon caused by increase in the construction activity at the end of the financial year and influence of the market forces.

(c) Price and distribution of cement has been de-controlled with effect from 1.3.1989. However, Government is encouraging creation of additional capacities and providing infrastructural support for transportation of cement from surplus to deficit areas in order to check abnormal increase in prices.

Water Pollution

437. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether health hazards have increased manifold recently due to wide spread arsenic pollution in water in Maldah, North 24-Parganas, Murshidabad, South 24-Parganas;

(b) if so, whether the State Government of West Bengal have since requested the Union Government to launch a number of programmes to eradicate the menace,

(c) the reaction of the Government, thereto;

(d) whether any programme has since been initiated; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARJIBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e). Government of West Bengal had sent a project in July, 1993 at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 crore which was approved in February, 1994 at a cost of Rs. 9.618 crore out of which Rs. 4,809 crore has been released. The State Government had submitted another project for approval of Central Government in December, 1994 on water supply scheme based on surface water from river Ganges for covering 250 villages in three parts and two distinct phases with 14.3 million gallons a day (MGD) water treatment plants. Government of India have approved this project in February, 1995 at the cost of Rs. 88.48 crore. The assistance from the Central Government will be 75% of the approved cost, the balance 25% will be met by the State Government. The work on the new project is likely to be started in April, 1995.

World Bank Report

438. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank in its recent report has commented upon India's population growth rate, Malaria and Plague;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Development of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

439. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether discussions were held amongst non-Government Organisations, Academician Research Institutes, the World Bank, US Department of Energy and U.S. Industry and Indian renewable energy delegation in the month of December, 1994 regarding development of non-conventional and renewable energy sources;

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussions;

(c) the programme drawn up by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the renewable energy is likely to be provided to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF