

(SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

Atomic Power Plant in Punjab

4918. SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH WALIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Site Selection Committee of the Department of Atomic Energy visited Punjab for selecting a suitable site for the siting up of the Atomic Power Plant in that State;

(b) if so, when;

(c) the names of the places found suitable for the purpose;

(d) when does the Department of Atomic Energy, plan to start this project in Punjab and at what place; and

(e) the reasons for the delay in starting this project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During March 1984.

(c) to (e). The Site Selection Committee's report for the Northern Electricity Region, of which Punjab is a constituent part, is under consideration by the Government.

Rocket Launching Centre in Orissa

4919. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was any discussion between the officials of the Defence Ministry and the representatives from Orissa regarding Baliapal Rocket Launching Centre; if so, details thereof;

(b) when the project is proposed to be initiated and when it is to be completed; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the apprehension of the people of the locality about their safety reflecting in strong resentment and, if so, what is the reaction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) Discussions have been held several times with eminent citizens of Orissa regarding setting up of the National Range Project in Orissa.

(a) The go ahead sanction for the project has been accorded and major part of the project is likely to be completed in this plan period.

(c) The National Range Facility has been planned taking into account all aspects of Range safety requirements for carrying out launchings and tests. Therefore, any fear regarding safety of nearby region is totally unfounded.

Afforestation Programme

4920. DR. K. G. ADIYODI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of grassland available for afforestation in the country, state-wise, with the total affected during the last 3 years;

(b) the proposal during the Seventh Five Year Plan to afforest grassland and the names of Forest species proposed for afforestation;

(c) whether there is any proposal to have shelter belts as wind barriers for afforestation purpose in grassland; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Agricultural statistics (1980-81) show approximately 12 million ha. as permanent pastures and other grazing lands. There has been no recent or special survey of such lands. These lands suffer from degradation, encroachment etc. and hence, the statewide extent as well as percentage of grassland available for afforestation in the country is not known.

(b) Rehabilitation of pastures through afforestation, seeding etc. is a part of the