

(b) An Islands Development Authority has already been set up in August 1986 to decide on policies and programmes for an integrated development of the islands including Lakshdweep keeping in view all aspects of environmental protection as well as the special technical and scientific requirements of the islands; and review progress of implementation and impact of the programmes of development.

(c) A Steering Committee has been constituted for working out on implementation strategy. The first meeting of the Steering Committee, held on 22.9.1986, considered various issues relating to: environment, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, construction, transport, tourism, telecommunications, health aspects, energy etc. Follow up action has been initiated in consultation with the concerned Ministries and Departments. The progress made on each of these issues would be monitored regularly by the Steering Committee and the Island Development Authority.

Criteria for Selecting A Site for Atomic Power Plant in Orissa

314. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether preliminary investigation has been conducted at different places in Orissa for selection of a suitable site for setting up of the proposed Atomic Plant ;

(b) if so, which site has finally been selected for ideal location of Atomic Power Plant in Orissa ;

(c) the steps taken to set up Atomic Power Plant at the place ideal location ; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) to (d) Along-

with sites located in other states of the Eastern Electricity Region, sites in Orissa also have been examined by the Site Selection Committee of the Department of Atomic Energy to assess their suitability for setting up nuclear power station. Report of the Site Selection Committee is under consideration of the Government.

Liquid Propulsion Centre at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu

315. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any liquid Propulsion Centre is functioning at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu State ;

(b) the details of the work done at this Centre ;

(c) the details of the plans for its expansion ; and

(d) whether Government propose to convert this unit into an independent autonomous unit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b) No. Sir Only a liquid Propulsion Test Facility (LPTF) is being established at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu. The work at LPTF includes Assembly and Integration, Ground testing and Qualification of the Engines, Stages, and other major Subsystems, such as Feed Systems, Pressurisation systems etc.

(c) The existing facilities at Mahendragiri will be augmented appropriately where necessary to meet the future testing requirements in the context of development of advanced liquid propulsion systems including cryogenic propulsion for the post PSLV Programmes.

(d) The Liquid Propulsion Test Facility at Mahendragiri is a part of the Indian Space Research Organisation and presently comes under the Liquid Propulsion Systems Unit (LPSU) of ISRO-DOS. The question of converting this Test Station into an independent autonomous unit does not arise, since it is a major ISRO Facility mainly catering to the ground testing of Liquid Engine stages and subsystems developed for the Indian Space programme.

National Forest Policy

317. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has now become necessary to evolve and pronounce clearly the National Forest Policy since many development projects are required to conform to the upkeep of the environmental requirements of the country ;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in formulating the policy ; and

(c) by what time this will be done ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Forest Policy has to be framed taking all possible aspects into consideration and after consulting the States. Finalisation of the policy will be done as soon as possible after consultations are completed.

Enquiry into Assassination of General Vaidya

318. SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-
CHANDRAN :
SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN:
SHRI R.M. BHOYE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an enquiry was ordered into the security lapses that led to the assassination of General A.S. Vaidya ; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) The matter has been looked into. On the basis of the facts revealed, the matter is being examined.

Tiger Reserves in the Country

319. SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number, location and details of the Tiger Reserves under the Project Tiger ?

(b) whether Government propose to involve non-officials with the development of the scheme and to review of progress made thereunder ; and

(c) whether it is proposed to increase financial aid for the tiger reserves and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) There are 15 Tiger Reserves under Project Tiger in the country, spread over 11 States and 1 Union Territory. The details are given in the Statement below.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is proposed to increase financial assistance to the Tiger Reserves and the pattern of Central Assistance to these Reserves has been changed from 50% funding of non-recurring expenditure on approved items, to 100% funding of such items,