

in India to develop methods in harnessing of ocean energy. Investigations and studies are being carried out by the Central Electricity Authority for preparing a techno-economic feasibility report for a tidal power project in the gulf of Kachch.

Utilization of Solar Energy

587. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a meet on solar energy in which eight Asian countries participated, to have deliberation on measures to step up the utilisation of solar energy for power generation ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the total solar energy which will be utilised for power conversion in the Seventh Five Year Plan period and the amount allocated ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A number of Asian countries participated in a discussion in September, 1987 on possibility of effective utilization of solar energy in the Asian region including solar power generation. Assessing the socio-economic needs of the region as well as the current state of technology, the priority areas for stepping up the utilization of solar energy have been identified by the group and a plan of action has been chalked out.

(c) A total amount of Rs. 59 crores has been allocated for solar thermal and photovoltaic programmes in the Seventh Five Year Plan. Already solar power is being used for lighting, pumping etc. in a number of remote villages and for some specific isolated applications. In order to step up power production from solar energy, a pre-feasibility report on Megawatt range solar thermal power generation has already been prepared and is under consideration of the Department.

[Translation]

Misappropriation of Government Funds by Postal Staff in Orai District of U.P.

588. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have enquired into the cases of alleged misappropriation of Government funds and irregularities committed by postal staff in Orai district of Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the nature of punishment given to the guilty persons ; and

(d) the number of cases in which guilty persons in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh have been given punishment during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and same will be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Dead Electric Poles on Highways and Roads

589. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no system with the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking to monitor at night the dead electric poles on the roads especially highways and important roads ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) According to Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, they already have a system for monitoring street lights at various places including highways and important roads and action for rectification of defects is taken as and when noticed.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Profits of Super Bazar

590. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the gross and net profit earned by Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar from 1 January, 1987 to date and how does it