

rule is that the proposal has to come through the State Government. Whenever the proposal comes, we will certainly examine it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan is affected by severe famine every year and there is serious water scarcity and even now in the large cities water is available for not more than half-an-hour in a day. In this connection, I want to know to whether the schemes pertaining to big municipal areas which were sent by the State Governments for sanction have been cleared and will you cooperate in making available funds from the Life Insurance Corporation for executing the water supply schemes.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : For water supply, we have given.....

(*Interruptions*)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Mediocrity In Science and Technology

*580. **DR. C.P. THAKUR :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister suggested at the Indian Science Congress removal of mediocrity in the fields of science & technology ; and

(b) if so the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard ?

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

(b) Some of the steps taken or proposed to be taken to promote excellence and weed out mediocrity are as follows :

- (i) Substantial step up in financial resources in all fields of Science and Technology to enhance and modernise the S&T infrastructure.
- (ii) Create appropriate environment in the functioning of scientific departments and scientific institutions, particularly giving them sufficient autonomy in their functioning.
- (iii) Provision of better working conditions facilities and emoluments to scientific community including a system of promotion to ensure recognition of merit for the advancement of S&T personnel.
- (iv) Formulation and implementation of various programmes for promoting research and development in the country to enable scientific community to work on frontline and challenging areas of science and technology.
- (v) Appropriate review mechanisms for evaluation of S&T institutions and programmes through the scientific peers to ensure improvement in standards of performance.
- (vi) Introducing a system of rewards and recognition for outstanding scientific work.
- (vii) Setting time-bound targets for performance in priority areas in the form of technology missions.
- (viii) Better opportunities for training young scientists in India and abroad in various selected fields of science and technology.

Cancer Due to Diesel Fume

*581. **SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether diesel fume is a cause of cancer ;