

the work of UNESCO's Executive Board and its Temporary Committee which have recommended several concrete and constructive steps for the improvement of UNESCO's functioning.

India has agreed to forego US\$ 407, 245 which had accrued to it due to currency fluctuations on our earlier contributions to UNESCO. Several other countries have also taken similar steps to assist UNESCO to meet its immediate financial problems.

Achievements of Antarctica Expeditions

3312. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA :
SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the main achievements of Antarctica Expeditions undertaken by Indian Scientists and Meteorologists during last two years;

(b) the main activities of the team at 'Dakshin Gangotri; and

(c) whether Government have received any new suggestions from the fourth team of our Scientists which has recently completed its trip successfully ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b) Two scientific expeditions to Antarctica have been organised during the last two years. A permanently manned scientific station fully equipped with two working laboratories in the field of Biology and Meteorology have been established in Antarctica. Besides this, a field station in the hills about 70 km away from our permanent station has also been put up. A 12 member team which included 3 scientists has just returned from Antarctica after staying there for

15 months. Presently a team of 13 persons including 3 scientists is manning our station. Valuable data in the fields of meteorology, communications, biology, geology have been collected and are being analysed.

(c) Yes Sir. These will be kept as a guideline while organising the Fifth Indian Antarctic Expedition.

Incentives to Sugar Factories for setting up of Biogas Plants

3313. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to give incentives to the sugar factories for erecting Biogas Plants attached to the distilleries; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the number and names of sugar factories which are being considered for such incentives ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government supports the construction of biogas plants based on distillery effluents (spent wash) at distilleries or sugarmills-cum-distilleries. The support is upto 33% of the incremental capital cost relating to the biogas system subject to a maximum of Rs. 25 lakhs. Installation of two full scale plants have been supported accordingly at Cellulose Products (I) Ltd., Ankleshwar (Gujarat) and the Pravara Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Pravarnagar (Maharashtra). Techno-economic feasibility reports are under preparation by a number of other distilleries including sugar mill-cum-Distilleries for availing this financial support. The number of units that could be supported will depend on the financial allocations available to the Department.