

for Cultural Relations was transferred from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of External Affairs ; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such transfer.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) April 22, 1970.

(b) The establishment, promotion and strengthening of cultural relations with other countries is an important element in the formulation and implementation of our foreign policy.

Development of fast Reactors and Fast Breeder Reactors

6130. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA : Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a scheme under consideration of Government for the development of Fast Reactors and Fast Breeder Reactors under the Atomic Energy Programme ; and

(b) if so, the main features of the Scheme ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The programme for setting up Fast Breeder Reactors is part of the three stage strategy for the production of nuclear power, explained on page 8 of the document "Atomic Energy and Space Research—A Profile for the Decade 1970-80", copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) Work on the construction of the Fast Breeder Test Reactor is to commence shortly. A Fast Breeder Proto-type Reactor is to be established using the experience gained from the Test Reactor.

Request by Kerala for Powerlooms

6131. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAN-KAPPAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kerala Government have requested for powerlooms in the State and, if so, when and the number of powerlooms demanded ;

(b) the time by which the said demand would be met ; and

(c) whether the Kerala Government have been permitted to set up less number of powerlooms as compared to other States and, if so the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Allocation of powerlooms to the various States and Union Territories was made after taking into account factors like population, the number of existing registered handlooms in the States, the relative industrial backwardness of the area and the proximity to the spinning mills etc. On this basis, the allocation made to Kerala was less than the allotments made to certain other States.

Housing Facilities to employees to G.P.O., Trivandrum (Kerala)

6132. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAN-KAPPAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether housing facilities have been provided to all the employees of General Post Office and Telephone Exchange, Trivandrum in Kerala ;

(b) if so, the total number of the employees, category-wise and the number of those among them who reside in the Departmental Government quarters ; and

(c) whether Government have considered any proposal to construct quarters for the said employees who have not yet been provided any Government accommodation ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) No.