

(c) 2707.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Institute approached for grants for purchase of mountaineering/trekking equipment during 1988-89. No fund was released to the Institute, for purchase of such equipments.

[English]

**Grants to States by National Archives of India**

4132. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Archives of India is giving grants to the State Governments and different organisations for the preservation and up-gradation of valuable ancient records and also for upgrading their conservation facilities by establishing well-equipped laboratories;

(b) if so, the amount of grant give to different States for this purpose in last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by different State Governments and the organisations for the preservation of those valuable records?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Archives of India has provided in 1987-88 Rs. 53,12,400/-, in 1988-89 Rs. 65.06,300/- and in 1989-90 Rs. 42,95,000/- to State Archives and voluntary organisations, educational institutions, libraries, museums and Universities for maintenance, preservation, listing and cataloguing of their manuscript collections as also for

microfilming and preparation of the Guides.

(c) The beneficiary State Governments and voluntary organisations are taking appropriate steps for the preservation of their records and manuscript holdings.

**Protection of Indian Inventions**

4133. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:  
SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in utter disregard of the Indian patent rights, an American aluminium giant is reported to have commercially exploited important technology developed and patented by Indian Scientists at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur in 1970;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed in this regard to balk down such violations by the foreign firms of the Indian patent technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) to (c). The procedure for redressal of infringement of patent rights is provided for under the Patents Act, 1970. It is for the owner of the patent to approach a Court for relief.

**R & D Centres on Biotechnology in West Bengal**

4134. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Biotechnology have set up any Research and Development Centre, demonstration project; and S &

T for biotechnology products in West Bengal under various sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to set up some bio-technology products research programme centre or industry in West Bengal in the near future; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology has supported projects on different aspects of biotechnology covering research, product and process development and industrial biotechnology in West Bengal. These include:

1. A Distributed Information Centre in the area of Genetic Engineering at Bose Institute, Calcutta under Biotechnology Information System has been set up.
2. Biotechnology Enrichment of Magnesite Ore with antibiotics as by-products—Burn Standard Co. Ltd., Calcutta.
3. Identification of factors responsible for successful colonisation and Pathogenicity of Vibrio Cholera with a view to development of an efficacious vaccine—Jadavpur University, Calcutta.
4. Development of improved strains of methane producing bacteria through genetic engineering—University College of Science, Calcutta.
5. A technique to improve bioleach-

ing by the use of a cell surface dependent cell sorter and model describing the bioleaching process—University of Kalyani, West Bengal.

6. A Post doctoral biotechnology training course in Boss Institute, Calcutta.

#### **Auction of Letters of Mahatma Gandhi**

4135. SHRI PARASRAMBHARDWAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some letters written by Mahatma Gandhi are to be auctioned by the well-known English auctioneers, Sothebys;

(b) if so, whether Indian Government propose to use this opportunity of adding to our collection of Gandhi memorabilia;

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) No information is available.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Palm Oil Mission**

4136. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Palm Oil Mission which was to achieve self-sufficiency by the year 2000 is likely to suffer a setback as raising the required number of palms through tissue culture is lagging far behind the target;