

annum to 45,000 tonnes per annum.

(b). The estimated cost of the project as of now is Rs. 50 crores.

(c). No, Sir.

(d). Does not arise.

(e). and (f) HCL plans to execute the Khetri Smelter Expansion Scheme tentatively by 1995.

[Translation]

Agriculture

63 **Research on Ancient Agricultural Practices**

*707. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research on information available in Vedas regarding agricultural practices followed in those days; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a). No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

[English]

63 **Talks With Myanmar Regarding Insurgent Activities**

* 708. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had initiated any talks with the Government of Myan-

mar on the issue of Myanmar territory being used by insurgents operating in the North Eastern States; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). This issue has been discussed with the Government of Myanmar from time to time. They have assured us that it is not their policy to support insurgent groups against a neighbouring country and indicated their willingness to cooperate in monitoring insurgent activity. On this basis, border commanders of the two countries maintain contacts with each other.

64 **National Research Centres for Fruits in Maharashtra**

*709. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up National Research Centres for banana, orange, mango and grape at Jalgaon, Nagpur, Ratnagiri and Pune respectively in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) & (b). Sir, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research centre on Citrus (which includes orange) at Nagpur. There is no proposal to set up National Research Centres for banana and mango in Maharashtra. However, there is a proposal to establish a National Research Centre for Grapes for which Maharashtra and two other States have been asked to offer a suitable site.