

on the 21st August, 1984. As a follow-up of the National Sports Policy, steps are envisaged *inter-alia* to assist the autonomous sports authorities in encouraging deserving players to train and practice, free of cost, in coaching camps. Besides continuing the existing schemes of talent search scholarships and regional coaching centres, it is also envisaged, subject to availability of resources, to start sport schools and sport hostels with a view to spotting talent at a young age and nurturing it. To facilitate this, it also envisaged to encourage construction of sports stadium in such district headquarters where none exist.

(c) The Government have already under operation the National Welfare Fund for Sportsmen which provides for grant of pension to outstanding sportsmen under certain conditions of hardship.

#### Production of Cheaper Colour TV Sets

231. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether production of cheaper colour TV sets has picked up ;

(b) if so, the present market price of indigenous sets ;

(c) whether Government have allowed import of kits for colour TV sets ; and

(d) if so, the number of kits imported during the last year ?

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

(b) The cost of cheaper price

colour TV sets, as per recent survey done in New Delhi varies from around Rs. 7,000/- to Rs. 7,500/- inclusive of taxes in Delhi.

(c) and (d). Except for one time ad-hoc import of 90,000 colour TV (CTV) kits at the time of ASIAD, no other import of kits for colour TV sets has been permitted by the Government.

#### Research and Development Plans for Mountain Regions

232. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether there are any research and development plans for mountain regions, particularly Himalayan regions for protection of their ENVIRONMENT AND DIVERTING their dependence on mountain resources ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI VIR SEN) : Yes please.

Recognising the need for mountain development, especially the Himalayan region, several R & D programmes are at various stages of implementation and include :

—Integrated Eco-Development Research Programme with active participation of 21 universities and other agencies in the Himalayan region. This Programme covers :

—Eco-system regeneration studies ;

—Evolving technology and management packages to solve local problems ;

—Creation of nurseries and seedling banks ;

—Creation of Biosphere Reserves ;

—Watershed Management ;

- Extensive afforestation and soil conservation ;
- Landslides hazard control.
- Eco-Development Camps involving students and the general public ;
- Eco-Task Forces for soil conservation, afforestation and stabilization of fragile slopes ;
- Creation of the Himalyan Institute of Environment and Development with a chain of centres devoted exclusively to evolving of Technology and Management solutions to location specific problems so that sustained development becomes possible through optimal natural resource utilization.

These programmes are aimed at optimal utilization of natural resources for sustained development of the hilly regions and do not seek to divert hill peoples' dependence on mountain resources.

#### Increase of Production of Edible Oils

233. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state the measures for increasing the production and availability of soyabean oil, cotton seed oil and rice bran oil and to bring the edible oils position at a steady and comfortable level ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): The measures for increasing the production and availability of soyabean, cotton seed and rice bran oil include, *inter alia*,

- (i) Launching of special projects on production of soyabean in Madhya Pradesh.
- (ii) Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Soya-

bean in Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

- (iii) Increase in area under non-traditional oilseed crops.
- (iv) Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities commensurate with the production of these oil seeds.
- (v) Enhancement of excise concession for use of rice bran oil in Venaspati from Rs. 100 PMT to Rs. 300 PMT.
- (vi) Setting up of the National Oil Seeds Board to coordinate, the production and development oil seeds within the country.

Domestic production is also supplemented by imports to ensure adequate availability of edible oils within the country.

#### Bilateral Relations with Countries in South Asia

234. SHRI MADHURI SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the nature of problems faced by India in the South Asian Region ; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to solve them bilaterally and develop closer links with these countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) India is committed to a policy of peace and good neighbourliness with all our neighbours. However, certain problems arise in the South Asian region whose origin can be traced to the common historical past of the countries in this region. The par-