

Chairs & Professorships for Indian Studies abroad

The Council continued to maintain 16 such Chairs of Indian studies in universities abroad. Under the scheme, Indian academicians are regularly deputed abroad to teach variety of subjects including Indology, Indian History and Philosophy, Sanskrit, Hindi and other languages.

These are the broad achievements of the Council for the last three years. Apart from that the Council also organised the annual Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding, the annual Maulana Azad Memorial Lecture and Maulana Azad Essay Competition in Hindi, Urdu and English in all citizens of SAARC countries under the age of 30.

Through these activities, the Council steadfastly worked towards realising its primary objectives of establishing, reviving and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries.

Letter of Intent to Multinationals

1964. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Telecommunications had issued letter of intent to three multinationals in July, 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has now decided to buy

one lakh digital switching systems from ALCATEL, the French Multinational;

(d) whether it is a fact that DOT had rejected the bid of ALCATEL on earlier occasions; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and why the said firm has now been given the order for supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). M/s. ALCATEL, France did not participate in the tender for procurement of Digital Switching Systems. SO the question of rejection does not arise.

[Translation]

Lease of Mines in Madhya Pradesh

1965. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has directed the Government of Madhya Pradesh to review its policy of awarding of iron ore, lime stone, bauxite and granite mines on lease;

(b) if so, the reaction of the State Government thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to enhance the export of iron ore, lime stone, bauxite and granite?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE