

in view of the overall considerations of economy, convenience and efficient working of the eastern regional office of the AMD, the offices and laboratories have been consolidated at Khasmahal where all necessary facilities for the employees have been created. The strength of the Calcutta regional office is 75 out of around 275 employees of the eastern region of the AMD.

## ISRO

2304. SHRI RAMESH CHENITHALA:  
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:  
SHRI SIMON MARANDI:  
SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA:  
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:  
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN:  
SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISRA:  
SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHARI:  
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:  
SHRI S. SIVARAMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news-item appearing in the 'Economic Times', New Delhi dated the November 26, 1994 regarding arrest of some officers of ISRO in connection with an espionage case;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter;

(c) the outcome of the probe ordered into this spying ring;

(d) its impact on India's strategic cryogenic development, PSLV and missile projects; and

(e) the remedial measures taken for future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). During investigations of a case in Thiruvananthapuram under Foreigners Orders 1948 read with Foreigners Act 1946 against a foreign national for overstaying in India, the Police authorities discovered evidence indicating some links between the said foreign national and a Scientist of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, one of the Centres of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It was suspected that certain classified documents of ISRO had been leaked out to the foreigner. Therefore, a case was registered under Section 3 & 4 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923 read with Section 34 of Indian Penal Code (IPC). Following the registration of this case, six persons including 2 Scientists of ISRO, 2 foreigners and 2 businessmen were arrested. The matter has since been entrusted by Government of India to the CBI on the request of Government of Kerala and a case has been registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in RC-10(S)/94-SIU(V)/SIC-II New Delhi under Section 7 of Foreigners Orders 1948 read with Section 14 of Foreigners Act, 1946 and RC 11(S)/94-SIU-V/SIC-II under Sections 3, 4, & 5 of Official Secrets Act, 1923 read with Section 34 of IPC. All the six accused are under custody and the cases are under investigation. The two Scientists have been placed under deemed suspension.

(d) No adverse impact on India's strategic Cryogenic development, PSLV and Missile Projects is expected.

(e) Review of the existing mechanisms for security in the different Centres and Units of Department of Space/ISRO has been initiated to strengthen the security measures.

[Translation]

## Public Sector Undertakings In Gujarat

2305. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Public Sector Undertakings in Gujarat facing shortage of working capital and the amount of shortage in each case;

(b) whether the Government are making any efforts to provide working capital to each such undertaking in the form of promoters; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c). There are two Central PSEs in the State of Gujarat namely, Indian Petrochemicals Corpn. Ltd. and NTC(G) Ltd. IPCL is access profit making PSE whereas due to continuous losses NTC(G) Ltd. has become sick and is facing working capital shortage. NTC(G) Ltd. has been referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) as per provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 amended in 1991. BIFR have appointed Operating Agency to prepare revival scheme for NTC(G) Ltd. taking into account working capital requirement also.

[English]

## Independent Secretariat for Election Commission

2306. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Election Commissioner of India has written to the Government recently seeking creation of an independent Secretariat under his charge and control on the pattern of the Secretariats of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and the Supreme Court Registry;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals received in this regard from the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC);

(c) the existing pattern of the office of CEC;

(d) whether some of the earlier Chief Commissioners had made similar proposals;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government to the present CEC's proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS: (SHRI H.R.