

for getting cornea available in large number in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) On the basis of a Survey conducted in 1989, it is estimated there are more than 1.2 crores blind persons in the country.

(b) and (c). About 166 Eye Banks are functioning in the country and 12,225 corneas were collected by these Banks during the year 1993. The data regarding daily collection of corneas in the country are not available. About 8,400 corneal transplantation operations are performed every year in the country.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. Under the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB), one time non-recurring assistance of Rs. 1.75 lakhs and recurring assistance of Rs. 0.25 lakh is admissible for the development and maintenance of Eye Banks in the Voluntary Sector. Since 1986, a National Fortnight on Eye Donations is being observed every year from 25th August to 8th September to generate awareness about Eye Donations. Five new Eye Banks are proposed to be set up under the Programme during the current financial year.

[English]

'Operation Golden Bird'

1432. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army launched 'Operation Golden Bird' to effectively curb, contain and check militancy and secessionism in the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details of success achieved in the operation, State-wise; and

(c) in addition to this further steps taken to effectively curb militancy and secessionism in the North Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b). The Army launched operation in Mizoram against armed militant gang infiltrating from Bangladesh along the Indo-Myanmar border. The gang was successfully intercepted. The Myanmar army also undertook operation within

Myanmar territory. In these operations the following casualties were inflicted on the gang:-

I)	Militants killed	-	58
II)	Militants apprehended	-	43
III)	Militants surrendered	-	12
IV)	Weapons recovered	-	84
V)	Ammunition recovered	-	11000
			rounds approximately.

Large number of militants were forced to abort the infiltration attempt.

(c) Counter insurgency operations in some of the North Eastern States have been intensified with effect from May, 1995.

Coastal Patrolling

1433. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from Maharashtra Government for reimbursement of the total expenditure incurred for coastal patrolling to prevent and check smuggling of explosives into coastal areas of the State:

(b) if so, the details thereof including total expenditure incurred so far by the State;

(c) the amount so far reimbursed and the balance to be reimbursed; and

(d) the time by which the balance amount is expected to be reimbursed and the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Government of Maharashtra had sent a request in August, 1994 for re-imbusement of Rs. 4.74 crores incurred in connection with Coastal Surveillance Scheme for the years 1993-94 and 1994-95. The entire amount of Rs. 4.74 crores has been reimbursed by the Government of India in March, 1995. Presently, no claim of

Maharashtra Government is pending with Government of India.

Investment Pact with Germany

1434. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Germany had signed any agreement for increasing investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the agreement is likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement has been concluded with Germany on 10.7.1995. The main provisions of this Agreement include, *inter-alia*, protection of investment of either country in the other country; Most Favoured Nation Treatment in respect of investments/investors National Treatment; settlement of investment disputes through international arbitration, compensation in case of expropriation/nationalisation and facility for repatriation of returns etc.

(c) The Agreement would enter into force on the date of exchange of Instruments of Ratification, which is likely to take place shortly.

[*Translation*]

Patent related Conspiracy Abroad

1435. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the patent related conspiracy abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the facility proposed to be provided by the Govern-

ment for patenting the research and development activities in the country;

(d) whether the Government have considered any plan to undertake a nation-wide campaign to spread patent literacy among Indian companies; and

(e) 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Facilities already exist in the country for patenting the research in accordance with the provisions of the Patents Act, 1970.

(d) and (e) In order to spread the patent literacy among Indian companies, scientific community, etc. in the last couple of years, a number of seminars/awareness programmes on patent and patent information were organised for the benefit of scientists, researchers, inventors, industrial entrepreneurs, etc.

Registration of Patents

1436. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received for granting patents during the last three years, year-wise and the number of patents registered;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the reports about patents having been registered in Indian Ayurved system of medicines in foreign countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government for making patent rules effective and to ensure that patents are granted to the applicants easily in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) (a)