

with the Government of the United Kingdom on the future of Hong Kong. There are as yet, therefore, no indications to suggest that the interests of Indian citizens permanently resident in Hong Kong will be jeopardized in the post-1997 period.

#### **Pakistan Rocket Launching Experiments**

635. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistani Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission is planning high-altitude scientific rocket launching experiments and analysis and interpretation of data received through such experiments;

(b) whether the Commission has so far launched more than 150 rockets into the upper atmosphere and space;

(c) if so, whether such scientific rockets show that Pakistani nuclear capacity has been increased much higher than India;

(d) if so, whether this will pose a great threat to our scientific research; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to see that Pakistan scientific researches are not used against India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Since 1962, Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Committee (SUPARCO), which later became a Commission, has been conducting High-Altitude Scientific Sounding Rocket Experiments and analysis and interpretation of data received through such experiments.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Sounding Rocket Experiments for upper atmospheric studies have no co-relation with nuclear capacity. As such, no threat to our scientific research is expected.

(e) Government of India is always watchful of any threat to Indian interests.

#### **"Damage to Nature Despite Central and State Laws"**

636. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether at a Seminar held recently in New Delhi it was pointed out that despite 200 Central and State laws, incalculable damage to nature persists;

(b) if so, whether Union Government would call a meeting of State representatives to find out the ways to make the existing laws more meaningful and effective; and

(c) if so, the time by which this will be done ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) to (c). The proceedings of the Seminar held in New Delhi during 1-3 March, 1985 on "Law and Science in the protection of the Environment", organised by the Jawaharlal Nehru University, with financial support from the Department of Environment, have not yet become available. However, it may be stated that one of the recommendations of the Committee under the chairmanship of Shri N.D. Tiwari, constituted by the Government of India in 1980 to recommend legislative measures and administrative machinery for ensuring environmental protection, was that a systematic and comprehensive review should be made of Central and State legislations which have *inter-alia* objectives related to the protection of the environment, for removing their weaknesses. The State Govts. have already been addressed to quickly carry out such a review of the legislation at State level. The Govt. of India has come forward with amendments in respect of the following Central Acts, expected to come up possibly during the current session of the Eighth Lok Sabha/133rd Session of the Rajya Sabha :

(i) The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 1985.

(ii) The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 1985.