

have been taken from time to time in the past to attract Indian Scientists and Technologists settled abroad to come back to the country.

Some of these are:

- There is a provision for temporary placement of scientists and technologists under the scheme of Scientists Pool.
- A provision has also been made for creation of supernumerary posts.
- With a view to assisting non-resident Indians to secure expeditious clearance of their applications for setting up of industrial units in the country, a Special Cell has been created in the Ministry of Industry.
- New scientific departments/organisations such as Departments of Biotechnology, Ocean Development, Environment, Non-conventional Energy Sources, Centre for Development of Telematics (C— Dot) etc. have been set up and some of these are in high technology areas, which are likely to provide opportunities for scientists and technologists and attract them into the country.
- Total outlay for science and technology has been increased in the successive Five Year Plans.
- Delegation of enhanced administrative and financial powers has been made to scientific institutions to improve working conditions of scientists.

— Facilities to import equipment have been provided to the scientists and technologists returning from abroad.

— Programmes have been launched through which core groups of scientists are created in the country with all necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.

— Indian origin professional men and women who have distinguished themselves in their fields of activity and are settled abroad are being invited for short term technical assignments to assist in our developmental efforts in frontier areas of technology and emerging areas of science through a UNDP sponsored programme known as TOKTEN (Transfer of knowhow through expatriate Nationals).

Direct Flights between Trivandrum to Jaddah

704. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long standing demand from Indians working in Gulf for a direct flight from Trivandrum to Jaddah; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to operate an Air India direct flight between Trivandrum and Jaddah?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.