

(b) if so, the reasons for not considering Thumba for this purpose ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The location of the headquarters of the Space Commission at Bangalore was decided upon after taking into account various alternatives including Thumba. Bangalore was selected in view of the need to locate the headquarters at a place which would facilitate the logistics of managing the main centres of activity in the field of Space research, namely, Trivandrum, Sriharikota and Ahmedabad.

Agreement with Soviet Union for Space Research

552. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation has entered into any agreement with Soviet Union for mutual co-operation in Space Research ;

(b) if so, the contents thereof , and

(c) the nature of assistance India will receive from the Soviet Union under this agreement ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the agreement signed in May 1972, the Academy of Sciences of USSR and the Indian Space Research Organisation will arrange for the launching, during the year 1974, of a scientific satellite wholly designed manufactured in India. The launching will be implemented with the aid of a Soviet rocket carrier and will be from the territory of the USSR. The satellite will carry on it several scientific experiments.

(c) Apart from providing the rocket carrier for launching the satellite, the Soviet Union will render necessary advisory and technical assistance in implementing the project.

C.I.A. Activity in Thumba Space Research Station

553. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have noticed the reports in 'Kalasala' the official organ of Kerala students Union published from Trivandrum dated the 15th June, 1972 under the caption 'C. I. A.' activity in Thumba Space Research Station' and if so, their reaction thereto ; and

(b) the steps taken to prevent such activities in this Station ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. All matters relating to the Space Centre at Thumba including complaints and allegations regarding the activities of persons employed at the Centre receive the attention they warrant and, wherever necessary, suitable action is also being taken.

Assistance to States for Police Housing and Modernisation of Police Forces

554. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3230 on the 19th April, 1972 regarding the assistance to Kerala for Police Housing and Modernisation of Police Forces and state :

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision on assistance to States for Police Housing and Modernisation of Police Forces for the year 1972-73 ; and

(b) if so, the amount allotted for Kerala for this purpose ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sum of Rs. 49 lakhs has been made available to the Government of Kerala for the Modernisation of Police Forces and sum of Rs. 50 lakhs has been allocated to them under the Police Housing Scheme.