

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) No proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for fixing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of linseed has been received.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government of India to announce the MSP for linseed during the current year.

[English]

Terrorist Outfits

142. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian representative at the United Nations Human Rights Commission at Geneva, has cautioned against misuse and abuse of UNHCR by terrorist outfits in the name of international operations;

(b) if so, the context in which the submissions were made by the Indian representative; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) The Government of India has taken up the issue of the misuse and abuse of UN Human Rights forums, including the UN Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, by terrorists outfits.

(b) In August 1997, when it became known that ULFA activists had registered themselves for participation in the UN Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of minorities under the banner of an NGO, our mission in Geneva took up the matter with the Chairman of the Sub-Commission and the Officer in charge of the UN High Commissioner's Office at Geneva which provides the secretarial services for the sub-Commission and the Commission. The Mission also raised the issue in discussion on the reform of the Working Methods of the Commission on Human Rights.

(c) As a result of these and other efforts, photo-identity cards have been made compulsory at the meetings of the UN Commission on Human Rights at Geneva and stricter checks on identity and accreditation have been introduced. The NGO concerned has also apologised. Meanwhile as a result of efforts by Indian representatives at New York in the NGO Committee of the Economic and Social Council, awareness of the misuse of ECOSOC Consultative status by NGOs who allow criminal outfits to use their banner and of the responsibility of the UN Secretariat in this regard has been heightened. A special report has also been sought from the NGO which allowed its accreditation to be misused in this manner at Geneva. Discussions have also been initiated, in consultation with NGO umbrella organisations, for a code of

conduct by NGOs in the NGO Committee. While taking these steps, we have reiterated our full respect for the access which legitimate representative of NGOs must have to human rights bodies.

[Translation]

Investment in Agriculture Sector

143. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of capital investment made during 1997-98 in agriculture and associated sectors to meet the basic needs of the agriculture and rural sectors;

(b) whether the views of the agricultural experts have been obtained for framing any long term policy to export the agricultural products;

(c) if so, the main suggestions made by these experts;

(d) whether the Government have been considering to remove the domestic restrictions imposed on the agricultural products and their trade to promote the export of agricultural products and to make the agricultural sector competitive on international level; and

(e) the concrete steps taken by the Government during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) As per the latest information available, the percentage of investment in agriculture to total investment works out to 9.4 for the year 1996-97.

(b) and (c) The Government has brought out a paper on Medium Term Export Strategy. Based on India's export performance since Independence, the report suggests a strategy covering thrust sectors, markets, export, basket diversification, besides covering issues relating to expanding production base, improving competitiveness and institutional aspects of export promotion for achieving accelerated export growth in the country.

(d) and (e) There are generally no restrictions of movement and domestic trade of agricultural products and byproducts. Most of the States/UTs have removed all statutory restrictions of free movement and trade excepting a few States in specified commodities to subservise their local requirements.

[English]

Sale of Missile Technology

144. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been reported that the US President has approved the sale of missile technology to China;