

(a) whether the Government are aware that inordinate delay is being experienced to get mortal remains of non-resident Indians who die in Gulf countries; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to bring the mortal remains without any delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) As per the practice prevalent in the Gulf countries, the bodies of deceased Indian nationals are transported to India at the expense of the foreign employers/sponsors as per the obligations stipulated in their employment contracts.

The delay in transporting the dead bodies to India is attributed to the requirement to comply with stringent local procedures. In cases of natural death, the repatriation of the body of the deceased person could take upto six weeks. In cases of accidents, suicides, murders etc., the delay could be much longer, since police investigation by the local authorities is a prerequisite and, until this is completed, other formalities such as the local District Governor's clearance, attestation of relevant documents etc., cannot be undertaken. On receipt of information regarding the death of an Indian national, the Indian diplomatic Mission/Post liaises with the family members and employer/sponsor to facilitate expeditious procedural clearances and repatriation to India on the mortal remains of the deceased.

Development of Fruits and Vegetables

6176. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a vast scope for the development of fruits, vegetables in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction during the last three years;

(c) whether Central assistance is being allocated for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details of the Central scheme and the funds allocated to the State of Orissa during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government have been implementing separate schemes during the Eighth Five Year Plan for the development of fruits as well as vegetables in the country including Orissa. Under the Central Sector Scheme on 'Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits', assistance is being provided for distribution of quality planting material, area expansion, rejuvenation of senile orchards, training of farmers and publicity measures. Similarly, under the Central Sector Scheme on 'Production and Supply of Vegetable Seeds', assistance is being provided for production of Foundation Seed in Public

Sector, setting up of Hybrid Seed Production Units in Private Sector and for distribution of Minikits. The details of funds allocated to the Government of Orissa during the last three years is given in the statement attached.

Statement

Details of funds allocated under Central Schemes of Development of Fruits and Development of Vegetables to Government of Orissa

(Rupees in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Year	Total funds allocated to Government of Orissa under the Schemes of:	
		Fruits	Vegetables
1.	1995-96	73.03	9.50
2.	1996-97	83.83	8.90
3.	1997-98	327.70	11.03

Missile Development

6177. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether China is likely to provide nuclear umbrella to Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether China has been openly helping and assisting Pakistan in the Missiles development;

(c) whether China is also helping the Myanmar Government;

(d) whether of late China has been encircling India by helping its neighbours;

(e) whether any concrete measures in this regard have been worked out by the Government;

(f) whether the experts have found that India has to match Chinese capability in nuclear technology; and

(g) if so, to what extent the Government is considering to improve its nuclear technology in comparison to China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Government are aware of the defence cooperation between China and Pakistan. However, we have not seen any official statement, so far, by China that their defence cooperation with Pakistan includes provision of a nuclear umbrella to Pakistan.

(b) Government is also aware of the supply of various types of ballistic missiles and technology by China to Pakistan.

(c) Government is aware of the extensive assistance provided by China to Myanmar in the defence field.