

(c) if so, the progress in this regard during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken for its effective implementation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) 1993.

(b) The implementation of the Policy is reviewed from time to time.

(c) The State Nutrition Councils under the chairmanship of Chief Ministers and Interdepartmental Coordination Committees under the chairmanship of Chief Secretaries to operationalise multisectoral strategy of Nutrition Policy have been constituted in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Tripura and West Bengal.

The Governments of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have formulated their State Nutrition Policy.

(d) Efforts have been made to integrate nutritional concerns in sectoral programmes with a view to maximise their nutritional outcomes. A National Plan of Action on Nutrition to serve as a guideline for concerned sectors has been formulated. The Task Force on Micro nutrients (Vitamin A and Iron) was constituted and the report widely circulated at Central, State and District level. District Nutrition Profiles of 18 States/UTs and a Nutrition Surveillance System have been developed. Nutrition Education Activities have been intensified. The food and Nutrition Council under the chairmanship of HRM has been constituted to give focus and added thrust to the implementation of the Nutrition Policy.

Setting up of a Joint Research Station

1797. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which India and France have agreed to discuss matter of sustainable mutual collaboration in research;

(b) whether India and France have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for setting up of joint research station at Hyderabad; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a)

Research collaboration between India and France is mainly being accomplished through the Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research, which has been in operation at New Delhi since 1987 and is funded jointly by the two Governments. The Centre supports collaborative research programmes, related workshops and seminars etc.

The Centre has a Scientific Council having 4 members from each side which meets twice a year and discusses the matters related to research collaboration between the two countries, determines the priority areas of research, evaluates the joint research project proposals, reviews the activities of the ongoing projects, recommends the areas for joint workshops, seminars/symposia etc. So far 164 projects have been recommended by the Scientific Council in the areas of pure and applied mathematics, theoretical computer science, cellular and molecular biology, medical sciences, chemistry of natural products, catalysis, liquid interface science, materials science, environmental and ecological sciences, astrophysics and radio astronomy, geophysics and geosphere, remote sensing, semiconductor physics, theoretical physics, optoelectronics, microelectronics and separation science & technology. Out of these 71 projects have been completed.

In addition, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) have concluded a cooperation arrangement in April, 1997, and a Letter of Intent for Cooperation in Biotechnology has been signed in January, 1998 between Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and CNRS.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Telephone Exchanges in Bardhaman

1798. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the capacity of telephone exchanges at present functioning in the district of Bardhaman, West Bengal, exchange-wise;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to set up new exchanges or extend the capacities thereof; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) The details are given in Statement-I.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

The details are given in Statement-II & III respectively.