

(g) the concrete steps being taken by the Government to make improvement in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Efforts on technology development, acquisition, absorption, adaptation, upgradation and transfer are going on at a faster pace in the country. However, there are variations in the levels of technological progress in different sectors. While technological progress is visible in some sectors such as agriculture, atomic energy and space, it is at varying levels in different areas in the industrial sector.

(c) and (d) Government have increased the allocations for S & T year after year. While there is no separate allocation for technology *per se*, the Central Plan Outlay for science, technology and environment for the year 1997-98 is Rs. 2177 crores as proposed in the Union Budget for 1997-98. The Ninth Five Year Plan allocations are yet to be finalised.

(e) Utilization of technology and commercialisation of R & D results is primarily by the industry, both public and private sectors. Government is increasingly looking for greater role of industry in technology development and utilization.

(f) and (g) Government have, from time to time, evolved fiscal incentives and support measures to encourage industry to enhance investments in technology development and commercialisation of R & D results. Direct funding of R & D and technology development projects in industry, income tax relief on R & D expenditure incurred by industry are some of the major incentives.

To accelerate the development and application of indigenous technology to production process, Government have created a Fund for Technology Development and Application. The Fund is administered by the Technology Development Board constituted by the Government in September, 1996. The Board was allocated a sum of Rs. 30 crores in 1996-97. The current year's budget proposed an allocation of Rs. 70 crores for the activities of the Technology Development Board.

With a view to enhancing financial resource to state of art technology development, a scheme to match every additional commercial rupee earned by CSIR and ICAR laboratories as well as IITs has been initiated by the Government.

Torture by Police

4698. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been

drawn to the news-item captioned "Youth alleges torture by Police" appearing in "The Pioneer" dated February 11, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases where police have tortured the people in an effort to make them confess their guilt which they have otherwise not committed; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The Government have seen the news item in question which appeared in the "The Pioneer" in its issue of February 16, 1996. It has been alleged in the report that a 26 year old marketing executive of a computer firm was tortured and kept in illegal detention for three days by the officials of Police Station Rohini. This was reportedly done in an effort to make him confess that he knew the identity of the assailants who had earlier shot at his cousin.

(c) and (d) It has been reported by the Delhi Police that during the year 1996 & 1997 (upto 10.4.97) six such instances have come to their notice. The Departmental Enquiries have been ordered against 15 Police officials found involved in these cases.

[Translation]

Welfare Schemes for Women in Bihar

4699. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of voluntary organisations working for women welfare in Bihar and the amount sanctioned for them during the last three years on the recommendations of Bihar Social Welfare Board for implementations of various schemes;

(b) the number of such schemes lying pending with the Central Government for allocation of funds;

(c) whether the Government propose to fix any time limit for the implementation of women Welfare schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.