

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The activities of the Indian Cultural Centres abroad are constantly examined and reviewed by Constituent Bodies of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, viz. Governing Body and General Assembly. On the basis of this process, the annual programme of the ICCR is drawn up.

(c) does not arise.

[Translation]

Use of Fertilizers

3162. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the chemical fertilizers being used in agriculture on large scale are proving dangerous to human health;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) the effective steps being taken by the Government to prevent the excess use of fertilizers in agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) There are studies on the subject of chemical residues and their impact on human health. It cannot be concluded that the use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture is proving dangerous to human health.

(c) In general it cannot be said that the use of fertilizers in India is excessive. The average consumption of fertilizer nutrients in India is 86 Kilograms per hectare during 1997-98 against 345 Kilograms in Egypt, 135 Kilograms in Bangladesh, 375 Kilograms in Japan and 113 Kilograms per hectare in Pakistan, as per latest available data. Moreover, Government has promoted the concept of integrated nutrient management with appropriate use of organic manures and bio-fertilizers to reduce the reliance on chemical fertiliser.

[English]

Rice Research Station

3163. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set-up a Rice Research Station under the auspices of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in the

country, State-wise particularly Dhanbhandra in Barpeta district of Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Transfer of Ghauri

3164. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has procured Ghauri from North Korea in a secret deal;

(b) if so, whether Indian Government was aware of this secret deal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Government have seen reports in the media that Pakistan's Ghauri missile is based on a design clandestinely obtained from North Korea.

(b) to (d) Government closely monitors all developments in Pakistan's missile programme and are aware that Pakistan has covertly obtained missile related technologies and materials from other countries.

Bangladesh P.M. Visit to India

3165. DR. SANJAY SINHA :
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Bangladesh has recently visited our country and held discussions with various leaders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether she had offered to play mediatory role in the Indo-Pak negotiation during the course of her meeting; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard?