

(viii) Land Reform - Study of existing land reform and suggesting measures for improvement.

(d) The Commission felt that the possibility of deaths which occurred could have been due to prolonged malnutrition and hunger, compounded by diseases.

(e) The Government of Orissa had prepared a Long Term Action Plan (LTAP) for the KBK districts containing a package of programmes which aim at ameliorating the fundamental causes contributing to backwardness of the area and simultaneously creating opportunities for augmenting purchasing capacity of people over a period of time. The Planning Commission is monitoring the implementation of LTAP.

[*Translation*]

Indian Council for Cultural Relations

4158. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government contemplate to bring changes in the set-up of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):
(a) The organisational set-up of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations as defined in its Constitution is reviewed from time to time. The Governing Body and the General Assembly of the ICCR adopt changes if they are found necessary.

(b) In keeping with this practice the Council has recently opened new Cultural Centres in Johannesburg, Durban and Colombo.

(c) does not arise.

[*English*]

Nuclear Test

4159. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact Pakistan has decided to resume its nuclear tests in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

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

(a) and (b) After Pakistan announced a moratorium on further nuclear testing, a week later on 18th June 1998, the Pakistan Foreign Ministry said that Pakistan would calibrate its response to the level of provocation and that there were a number of factors which needed to be analysed, including the available data from the Indian tests which over time would enable an assessment of Indian weapons capabilities in qualitative terms.

(c) Government announced a moratorium on underground nuclear testing which was maintained after Pakistan conducted nuclear tests on 28th and 30th May. Government will continue to monitor developments and would take requisite steps to safeguard national security.

Kashmir Issue

4160. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Resolution on Kashmir seeking greater U.S. role introduced in senate" appearing in 'Time of India' dated 25 June, 1998;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government thereto; and

(c) the details of the resolutions?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The resolution sought to express the sense of the US Senate on the Kashmir issue and sought to give the United States and the United Nations a role in a settlement of the same. The resolution failed to come up for discussions before the Senate. Government's views on third party involvement in India-Pakistan relations have been reiterated on many occasions: there is no

place for any third party involvement of any nature whatsoever in India-Pakistan relations. These views have been made publicly known through official statements as well as interaction at the diplomatic and political levels to all concerned.

[Transalition]

Production of Almond

4161. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to increase the cultivation of almond in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme for Integrated Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits, aiming at the development of various fruits including almond. Under this scheme, four States viz. Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir have been identified for providing financial assistance @ Rs. 2050/- ha. For rejuvenation of old orchards.

Haj Pilgrimage

4162. SHRI RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that every year lakh of Haj Pilgrims coming from Uttar Pradesh to Delhi face the problem of accommodation in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government have any scheme to build a Haj house for these Haj Pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Every year about 14,000 pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh perform Haj through the Haj Committee. The normal arrangement is for them to stay for about three days at a camp set up by the Delhi State Haj committee near the Haj Manzil, Turkman Gate, Delhi, before they embark for Jeddah. During the Haj season, on any particular day, there was about 500 pilgrims from UP

who are so accommodated. It is the understanding of the officials of the Haj Committee, Mumbai, and the Delhi State Haj Committee that the arrangements for temporary accommodation for these pilgrims are satisfactory.

(c) Haj Houses are constructed in different State capitals largely with the funds raised by the State Haj Committees concerned, with some financial support being provided by the Central Haj Committee. Government do not have a separate scheme for housing the pilgrims.

[English]

IAS/IPS on Deputation

4163. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IAS, IPS and other allied cadres belonging to different State cadres have come on deputation to Delhi;

(b) the norms fixed for their deputation;

(c) whether some of their stay in Delhi is overdue;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to send back them to their parent Departments/State Cadre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Information is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Officers are appointed to different Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India on tenure deputation basis in accordance with the provisions contained in the Central Staffing Scheme. The appointment of IPS and IFS officers under the Government of India, against posts earmarked for them, is regulated in accordance with the Tenure Rules for IPS officers and the Scheme for staffing posts included in the Central deputation reserve of the IFS and other forestry posts.

(c) and (d) Appointment of officers upto the level of Additional Secretary and Inspector General of Police is made for the prescribed tenure. No tenure has been