

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