

1 German, 2 Mauritian and 1 Maldivian were cleared for participation on board the Cruise No. 133 of the Indian Research Ship ORV Sagar Kanya, which left Goa on February 18, 1998 as part of Government of India approved International and Inter-departmental scientific programme called Indian Ocean Experiment (INDOEX) and no sensitive data were collected by any foreign scientist.

(b) No, Sir. Security approval has been obtained at the appropriate levels as per the existing guidelines for programmes of this nature including clearance from the Ministry of Defence for participation of foreign scientists in the Cruise.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Milching Cattle

4202. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of milching cattle is gradually decreasing in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to promote cattle-rearing for increasing the production of?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to promote cattle rearing for increasing the production of milk, the Government of India has been implementing a number of Central/Centrally Sponsored schemes. Some of the major schemes are as follows:

- (i) Extension of Frozen Semen Technology and Progeny Testing Programme.
- (ii) National Bull Production Programme.
- (iii) Development to States for Feed and Fodder Development.

(iv) Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases.

(v) National Project on Rinderpest Eradication.

(vi) Integrated Dairy Development Projects in Non-operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas.

[English]

Watershed Development Project

4203. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have undertaken any programmes to promote the application of electronics and information technology in the watershed development projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have constituted a study team on agri-electronics;

(d) if so, whether the study team has submitted its report;

(e) if so, the details of the report; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereon?

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) and (b) Yes, sir. Electronics and Information Technology is being used in the implementation of the watershed development projects through the usage of Data Base Management systems (DBMS) and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Techniques. The Department of Electronics has sponsored projects for the development of a variety of software packages for watershed Management.

(c) to (f) As a part of the exercise relating to the formulation of 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002), the Planning Commission in December 1995 constituted a Working Group on Electronics Industry for Agriculture and Agro-processing. The Committee in its report reviewed the status of electronics applications in this area and spelt out development strategies for different subsectors