

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Canadian Assistance in Nuclear Field

1182. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Canada propose to assist India in the field of nuclear energy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Talks have been held with the Canadian side on the issues related to collaboration in the refurbishment of reactors which were initially constructed with Canadian assistance and according to the CANDU (Canada Deuterium Uranium) design in Rajasthan. The first two reactors in Rajasthan were the only ones built with such assistance. However, there has been no outcome of these talks so far.

#### Wrong presentation of J & K in Foreign Maps

1183. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the maps of foreign countries Jammu & Kashmir is not shown as a part of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) All instances of incorrect depiction of the map of India, including of the state of Jammu & Kashmir, which come to Government's notice, are taken up with the concerned authorities.

#### ISRO Spy Scandal

1184. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has absolved all the accused including foreign nationals involved in ISRO spy scandal case from being chargesheeted;

(b) if so, the details and the present position of the case;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has been responsible for keeping in custody a foreign lady and others for long inspite of the contrary reports by the CBI;

(d) whether the innocent persons confined in jail for long will be compensated in any manner; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Special Leave Petitions were filed by all the six accused (including two foreign nationals) and others before the Hon'ble Supreme Court challenging the order of Hon'ble High Court of Kerala which held the Notification issued by the Kerala Government for further investigation as valid. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 29.4.1998 has allowed the appeals in the Special Leave Petitions and has quashed the Notification of the Kerala Government ordering further investigation.

(c) By the time the CBI filed a report in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ernakulam, under section 173 Cr. PC on 30.4.1996, stating *inter-alia* that the allegations of espionage were not proved and had been found to be false praying for the discharge of all the six accused, all the accused had been granted bail, except the two Maldivian nationals. As they could not furnish the bail bond, they continued to be in judicial custody. The aforesaid Maldivian nationals were also detained under National Security Act by the Government of Kerala. One of the Maldivian National who completed a period of 12 months detention under the National Security Act was released and has gone back to Male before the Judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The other foreign national, it is learnt has also been released after the judgement.

(d) and (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 29.4.1998, has directed the Government of Kerala to pay a sum of Rs.1,00,000 (Rupees one lakh) to each of the six accused - appellants as costs. Action lies with Government of Kerala in complying with the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

#### Erosion in Credibility of CBI

1185. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of continuous erosion in the credibility and prestige of CBI during recent past;

(b) if so, whether a critical review of performance of CBI and other intelligence Agencies have been undertaken with a view to strengthen these agencies to tackle the

emerging new challenges of curbing crimes and corruption at high places and dubious nexus at higher levels duping the crores of rupees of country in terms of taxes;

(c) if so, the initiatives taken by the Government during the last one year; and

(d) the action taken on Dorai Committee report by the Government so far?

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) The credibility and prestige of the Central Bureau of Investigation is reflected in the increasing general demand for CBI inquiry and also the large number of cases referred to it by various State Governments, the High Courts and the Supreme Court.

(b) and (c) The Independent Review Committee was constituted by the Government in September, 1997 *inter alia* to examine the functioning of the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate and to suggest the changes, if any, needed to ensure, among other things, that offences alleged to have been committed by any person, particularly those in position of high authority, are registered, investigated and prosecuted fairly and expeditiously and that there is no pressure, arbitrary transfer of personnel etc. in the Central Bureau of Investigation. The Committee submitted its report in November, 1997. The Supreme Court incorporated many of the recommendations of the Independent Review Committee in its directions while also giving several other directions. Government have already decided to implement the judgment of the Supreme Court.

(d) In pursuance of Dorai Committee Report disciplinary proceedings were initiated against Joint Director (East)/CBI which have since been set aside by the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court.

[Translation]

#### Upper Koel Irrigation Project

1186. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to clear and implement the long pending Northern Koel and Leelajan Irrigation Projects in Bihar;

(b) if so, the time by which these projects are likely to be implemented ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) North Koel Irrigation Project was accepted by the Technical Advisory Committee in September 1989 for Rs.439.03 crores subject to clearance from forest angle by Ministry of Environment and Forest. The State Government has not obtained forest clearance so far.

In case of Leelajan Project Bihar Government is required to submit modified project report after complying with the observations of Central Water Commission.

Further irrigation projects are planned, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources as per their own priorities.

[English]

#### Production of Cotton

1187. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

SHRI K.P. NAIDU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total cotton produced during the last three years and proposed estimates for 1997-98 seasons, State-wise;

(b) the total cotton crop lost during the current season, State-wise, reasons for losses and help provided by the Union Government to farmers, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to use new technique and better pesticides to increase cotton production in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken to encourage farmers to use new technique of farming;

(e) whether the Government propose to delay cotton future in view of poor crop this season;

(f) the measures being taken to meet the shortfall in production including imports; and

(g) the details of quantity fixed by Government for export and domestic use of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The state-wise Cotton produced during 1994-95 to 1996-97 and estimated production during 1997-98 is enclosed in the attached Statement.

(b) As compared to cotton production during 1996-97, the quantity of cotton loss in the concerned States during