

not be interpreted as an attempt to edge India out of this market.

(d) Attempts are made to offer competitive prices in response to international enquiries to obtain export orders, when such opportunities arise and the domestic demand-supply position so allows.

Autonomy to CBI

1241. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give over all autonomy to CBI as per the directives of the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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 directives of the Supreme Court in its order dated December 18, 1997 are aimed at further improving the functioning of the Central Bureau of Investigation. Government have decided to implement the directions and some steps like constituting the 'CBI Selection Board' for making recommendation for appointment of the Director and other officers have been taken already.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

Demands of Cotton Growers

1242. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Sanghathanas of cotton growers have decided to have All-India agitation to highlight the problems of cotton growers in the country;

(b) if so, the main demands of the cotton growers;

(c) whether the Government are considering to accept their demands; and

(d) if so, the time by which the demands of cotton growers is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Ghauri Missile

1243. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan has denied that Pakistan has acquired foreign technology for Ghauri missile;

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

(c) whether Pakistan is also developing Ghaznavi, a powerful surface to surface missile;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to counter this threat?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are fully aware of consistent external support to Pakistan in this field despite the existence of multilateral export control regime, unilateral declarations of restraint and supply restrictions in supplier countries.

(c) to (e) Government has seen press reports that Pakistan is also developing Ghaznavi missile with a range of 2000 kms. Government of India is committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard its security and national interests in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

[Translation]

Production of Agricultural Products

1244. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of wheat, paddy, cotton, oilseeds and pulses per acre in foreign countries is more than that of in India;

(b) if so, the names of countries where per acre production of wheat, paddy, cotton, oilseeds and pulses is highest and the per acre production thereof; and

(c) the names of foodgrains having the highest per acre production in India is comparison to other countries of the world?