

(a) whether the Government are aware of the incidents of atrocities on the Indians living in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries;

(b) if so, whether the issue of such incidents are raised in bilateral talks with those countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) In the Gulf countries (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE and Oman), the total number of Indians is approximately 3.2 million. The majority of these persons are semi-skilled and skilled workers, who are employed on construction/maintenance projects being mainly executed by private companies. A number of Indians are also employed as domestic workers, including as maid servants.

While some workers have legitimate grievances relating to their working or living conditions, we have not received any reports of "atrocities" on our nationals in the Gulf countries. The majority of the complaints of our workers relate to non-payment of agreed wages, delays in payments, inadequate accommodation or food arrangements, and with regard to domestic workers, harassment or ill-treatment by the sponsor or his family members. These complaints are promptly attended to by our embassies whenever they are brought to their attention and, often, a satisfactory resolution of the dispute is obtained. The embassies also assist the workers if their disputes are brought before the local labour courts.

The Government closely monitors the condition of its nationals and takes up the question of their welfare with the Governments of the Gulf countries.

[English]

#### Cashew Cultivation

1101. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cashew cultivation is being promoted in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total cashew produced in the country during of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have any plan to increase production, processing and export of cashew; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation provides assistance to the States/UTs for promoting cashew cultivation under the centrally sponsored scheme for Integrated Development of Cashew. Important components of the scheme are: (1) new planting (2) Replanting/rejuvenation, (3) Intensive pest control measures (4) Establishment of Regional Nurseries for quality planting material production and (5) Training of farmers. A sum of Rs. 20 crores has been allocated for the scheme during 1998-99.

(c) A statement showing Statewise production of cashew for the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 is attached.

(d) and (e) the centrally sponsored scheme for Integrated Development of Cashew has been continued for the first two years of IX Plan on the same guidelines of VIII Plan. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority under the Ministry of Commerce provides assistance under their schemes for export promotion and market development. Adequate processing capacity has already been created in the country, with about 825 processing units having been established. During the year 1997, India exported 53067 metric tonnes of cashew worth Rs. 954.67 crores.

#### Statement

##### Production of Cashew

State	(In tonnes)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4
Kerala	149000	140000	134000
Karnataka	33000	37600	52000
Goa	37000	17800	20000
Maharashtra	31200	69000	80000

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	20000	30930	30000
Andhra Pradesh	50000	71700	60000
Orissa	46500	43000	40000
West Bengal	4100	6960	6000
Others	370	840	8000
<b>Total</b>	<b>371170</b>	<b>417830</b>	<b>430000</b>

[Translation]

#### Combating Terrorism

1102. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN:  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether American Government have given any assurance to the Government of India for extending full co-operation to combat terrorism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have consistently drawn the attention of the international community, through bilateral interactions and in multilateral forums, to the issue of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, and in other parts of India. This matter has been taken up on a number of occasions with the US authorities.

The US side has conveyed that they understand India's concerns and that the US takes a serious view of such terrorist activities.

#### Drip Irrigation

1103. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:  
SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUI  
BISEN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have kept Madhya Pradesh in the "C" category under the "Drip Irrigation System";

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the basis on which the classification has been done;

(c) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh have to pay 25 per cent more on the purchase of Drip System than that of Government of Maharashtra due to improper classification;

(d) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh have sent any proposal for reconsideration of this classification and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Since the drip manufacturers were unable to provide the drip systems at a uniform price throughout the country as the prices of components vary from State to State depending upon the level of awareness, proximity of the State to the factory, the distance involved in transportation, potential of drip irrigation in the State and taxes levied, the States in the country are categorised as A, B, & C. As the level of awareness in Madhya Pradesh State in implementing the drip irrigation was very low while initiating the scheme by the Government, the State was put under category 'C'. As per the guidelines, for all category 'C' states the system cost for drip irrigation can be raised upto 25% over the average cost of category 'A' State, i.e. Maharashtra.

(d) and (e) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh had furnished a proposal in January, 1997 requesting for placing Madhya Pradesh State under category 'B'. The Government of Madhya Pradesh was informed that the proposal regarding recategorisation of the State would be looked into by a committee which has been set up to review the price structure of the drip irrigation system. The State Government was also informed that the farmers of Madhya Pradesh could purchase the drip system from any where they feel convenient. The final report of the Committee is expected shortly.