

new programmes for enhancement and upgradation of traditional skills, undertaking of new technologies, etc. The youth of the State are well known for their marketing and skills in salesmanship. Government would explore possibilities of earmarking some land for the setting up of specialised industrial estates and shopping complexes inside and outside the State to provide self-employment opportunities.

17. However, progress on these fronts would pick up speed as normalcy on the law and order front improves. Some of the discredited elements, are disrupting the economic progress of the State by resorting to *bandhs* and *hartals*. Government cannot allow these activities to go unchecked. Economic progress and peoples well-being cannot be secured unless these activities are squarely faced. In dealing with these elements, it is necessary not only to approach it from the law and order point of view, but also deal with them politically.

18. I want to assure the people of the State that the Centre and State Government are one and will together deal with these special problems of Jammu & Kashmir. I would like to reiterate that this is a national responsibility to bring about resolution as well as reconstruction of the torn economy of the State. This national endeavour should be approached in a non-partisan manner. The entire country is behind you.

#### **Production of Betelnut**

1202. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:  
SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUI  
BISEN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Betelnut Development Scheme is being implemented in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the betelnut gardens have been affected by diseases in the country particularly in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent such diseases;

(e) whether the Government have formulated a time-bound programme to provide relief to the betelnut growers; and

(f) 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is only yellow leaf disease common in Kerala and Karnataka and ganoderma disease in Assam. There is no serious disease affecting betelnut gardens in Maharashtra. However, no alarming situation has been reported from any part of the country.

(d) Management practices recommended by Central Plantation Crop Research Institute of Indian Council of Agriculture Research have been advocated to the farmers to control the diseases.

(e) and (f) There is no specific scheme to provide relief to betelnut growers.

[English]

#### **Permanent Membership in UN**

1203. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:  
SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russian Prime Minister during his recent New Delhi visit indicated their support for India's claim to permanent membership of the UN Security Council;

(b) if so, in what terms;

(c) the steps taken to promote India's claim, during the past three months; and

(d) the developed and developing nations who have so far extended their support for India's claim?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister of the Russian Federation during his visit to New Delhi in December 1998 described India as "an influential member of the international community" and "a strong and appropriate candidate" for permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council.

(c) and (d) India took an active part in the discussions on Security Council restructuring, which took place in