

also equally correct that losses are being incurred due to corruption. As you have stated, it is true that quality of production that was anticipated is not being done. However, despite all this the government is not in a position to bear so much burden at this stage. We are giving a thought to it as to how to go about it in a phased manner.

[English]

**SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA:**

Sir, it has been said that the estimated total cost for the revamping would be Rs. 500 crores, which is stated to be unviable. Now, the question is whether there is any proposal for closing down of any of these units. I would also like to point out that there was a later proposal that, as a first step of phase-one, rehabilitation of the Nitro Phosphate Group would be made, which would require an estimated cost of Rs. 123 crores, which has since gone upto Rs. 157 crores. Are you thinking of closing these units? Or are you thinking to take into consideration revamping these units in a phased manner?

[Translation]

**SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have stated earlier we are in the process of obtaining information in this regard. Haldia factory cannot be put into operation for technical reasons. Report from Japan has been received. According to this report, an amount of Rs. 500 crores is required for the machinery. As for closing it down, there is no proposal to close it. We are getting detailed information in this regard.

[English]

#### **Holding of Meetings of 'India Cells'**

776. **DR. VENKATESH KABDE:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'India Cells' established under the spics of Indian embassies abroad are holding regular meetings of Indians and non-Indians to explain India's stand on dif-

ferent national and international issues;

(b) if so, the number of such meetings held during the year 1989-90; and

(c) the results of the evaluation made of such programmes to promote mutual understanding?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH):** (a) to (c). India's stand on different national and international issues is explained regularly by our Missions to both Indians and non-Indians abroad. While all Officers in our Missions are required to undertake this, the Head of Mission and the Officer-in-charge of Information work have been assigned a special responsibility to draw up programmes for this purpose and evaluate these. Although separate Cells have not been established, our evaluation shows that the results have been generally satisfactory.

**DR. VENKATESH KABDE:** Sir, generally the perception of India's problems in the international fora and the community is poor. This view has been expressed by Indians living abroad that many of our problems are not understood by the foreigners and, as a result, lot of misunderstandings arise. Particularly in United States, I think an assessment was made by the State Department that there was violation of human rights in Kashmir a statement which was quite undesirable for all- and because of that, an explanation had to be given. Therefore, my question to the Minister is what specific efforts we are making in the United States. We have a society like the Indo-American Society which undertakes programmes with our nationals over there and also with the citizens of the United States of America, to explain our stand to different people. I would like to know if such programmes are held, how many such programmes were held last year in United States and what is the method of evaluation.

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL)** Sir, I agree with

my hon. friend that the Indians living abroad are a great asset and should be looked at as such and, therefore, all our foreign policy projections should rely on their cooperation and their initiatives a great deal. This is one of the objectives of this Ministry which I am trying to pursue further. As a matter of fact, we have now taken a decision that in the Ministry I am establishing a separate Desk for dealing with Indians abroad—their problems on one side and their projecting India's interests on the other. So far as the American situation is concerned, my hon. friend would agree that like all societies, American society has also its complexities. Therefore, the role of the media, the role of the Government, the role of the public opinion, all have to be juxtaposed to find a new solution. But I can assure the hon. Member that it is receiving my attention a great deal.

**DR. VENKATESH KABDE:** Sir, we are having problems in explaining our stand with regard to Kashmir to Arab nations. So far, as you know, we have received good deal of support and we have been able to isolate Pakistan in the international fora. But recently, there has been a trend and Iran has sided with Pakistan and also we are having some problems with Afghanistan. Now, the International Islamic Society is meeting in Cairo and we are afraid that this stand which was in support of India, may not be there. We have large number of Indians living in Arabic countries. I would like to know how we are trying to mobilise the Arab countries with the help of Indian and non-Indians living in Arab countries, to explain our stand on Kashmir.

**SHRI I. K. GUJRAL:** Sir, one of the assets of India is that the Indians living abroad, particularly, in Arab countries, are very deeply patriotic and they understand the problems that India faces. It is also a fact that Indians living abroad, irrespective of their religion and irrespective of their ethnic background, are unanimous in supporting India's stand regarding terrorism and what is being inflicted on us. So far as the Arab countries are concerned, by and large the friendly Arab countries have understood our position and I am sure my hon. friend would

know that this is an on-going process of which we are cognisant.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Coconut Research Centre at Dapoli Maharashtra

\*761. **SHRI A.R. ANTULAY:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the soil in the Konkan region of Maharashtra is best suited for growing coconut trees;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide incentives to the coconut tree growers in this region;

(c) whether the Coconut Development Board propose to set up a Coconut Research Centre at Krishi Vidyapitha at Dapoli in the Konkan region;

(d) if so, the time by which the centre is likely to be set up there; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). A Statement is given below.

### STATEMENT

(b) Coconut Development Board is implementing two schemes for providing incentives to coconut growers in the region:—