

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:—

(i) **Area Expansion Scheme:** Under this scheme subsidy @ Rs. 3000/- per ha. is extended to small and marginal farmers for planting and maintenance of coconut gardens up to five years.

(ii) **Providing Financial Assistance for Irrigation Facilities:** Under this scheme Rs. 1000/- per pumpset is given as subsidy for irrigation facilities.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Coconut Development Board has been set up to look after the development of Coconut in the country. Research on coconut is undertaken by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). An ICAR Research Centre of All-India Coordinated Research Project on Palms is functioning at Bhatya, Ratnagiri, which already looks after the Konkan Region.

#### **Fertilizer Technology Transfer\***

\*762. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited has taken up fertilizer technology transfer job in a big way;

(b) if so, the main features of the project and the amount of funds involved therein; and

(c) the extent to which it will be beneficial to agriculture?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIDEVI LAL): (a) M/s. Hindustan Fertilizer Corpora-

tion (HFC) have taken up several Fertilizer Education and Agricultural Development Programmes through which farmers, specially small and marginal farmers have been helped in achieving higher rate of agricultural productivity.

(b) The broad features are as under:—

i) Block demonstration on package of practices in farmers' fields with special thrust on overall agricultural development for small and marginal farmers.

ii) Soil Testing for NPK and Micro-nutrients.

iii) Farmers' training and study visits.

iv) Group discussion, Kisan Mela, Field Day, etc.

v) Transfer of technology for agriculture in rainfed areas.

vi) Tribal development and involvement of farm women in agricultural development.

HFC are spending annually around Rs. 12 crores per annum on the above activities. Out of this an amount of Rs. 8 crores per annum is met from the grant made available by U.K.

(c) The benefits which accrue from these activities are as under:—

— Increased use of fertilizer.

— Yield increase of cereal crops, oilseeds, pulses and vegetables.

— Increase of HYV coverage.