

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIKAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 1989, 10 tons of onions were irradiated for the precommercial scale storage experiment. The annual estimated production of onions during the last two years 1988 and 1989 has been 2.5 and 3 million tons respectively based on agricultural production statistics.

(c) A Pilot Plant Food Irradiator Facility at BARC is utilised for R&D activities and pre-commercial scale irradiation of onions and other food items. This Pilot Plant Irradiator can process about 0.5 ton onion/HR, 0.3 ton potatoes/HR and 240 Kg. spices/HR. A portable Demonstration Onion Irradiator with a capacity of 1.5 ton/HR is under fabrication.

(d) Yes, Sir. BARC has standardised irradiation technology for preservation of perishable agricultural commodities, economically important to this country such as potatoes, onions, wheat and other cereal products, pulses, tropical fruits, fish and spices, and not for all the 40 food items cleared in 32 countries.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Government have taken steps in the right direction by clearing items like onions, spices and frozen sea foods for export which will increase our export earning.

[*Translation*]

Industrially Backward Distt. in Madhya Pradesh

499. SHRI KANKAR MUNJARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have declared Balaghat district in Madhya Pradesh as an

industrially backward district; and

(b) if so, the financial assistance provided by the Government to the entrepreneurs of this district during 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIKAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) District wise information on the financial assistance provided under various schemes is not maintained centrally.

[*English*]

Foreign Nationals in the Country

500. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3684 on 30 August, 1990 and state:

(a) the number of foreigners, country-wise found overstaying or in possession of false papers;

(b) How many foreigners out of 63 to whom leave India notices were issued have actually left India;

(c) the final result of the 13 cases registered under the Indian Penal Code and the Foreigners Act; and

(d) the latest position of the action taken against these 13 persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.