

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF M G K MENON) (a) Yes Sir, a Workshop on Biotechnology was held in San Francisco in February, 1988. A five member Indian official delegation and representatives of 13 Indian companies participated in it from the Indian side. The two-day Workshop was followed by visits by the delegates to the US Institutions. The Workshop was organised to bring together Indian and US entrepreneurs in Biotechnology as a means to promote industrial activity in this sector in India.

(b) and (c) Industry representatives individually visited Biotechnology Companies of their own choice after the San Francisco meeting. Some of them have received return visits from some US Biotechnology Companies subsequently. Considering the nascent stage of Biotechnology Companies worldwide, it is expected that such visit contacts should be useful for the development of Indian Biotech industry in the long run. The Government of India's role was limited to bringing together the prospective Indian and US entrepreneurs. It is for the industry to further negotiate and finalise any collaborative ventures. In addition there is a continuing exercise of the Department of Biotechnology to bring together educational and R&D institutions with industry for product/process development, improvement etc.

#### **Illegal poaching in Indian exclusive Economic Zones**

4013 SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether incidents of poaching in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone by some

poachers from Thailand and Burma are increasing,

(b) if so, the number of such incidents of poaching detected in the last year, and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR RAJA RAMANNA) (a) to (c) There has been some increase in the poaching activity in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone by Burmese and Thai vessels recently. During the calendar year 1989, 20 Burmese and 3 Thai vessels were apprehended by the Navy/Coast Guard for poaching in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone. In the first 3 months of the current calendar year, 2 Burmese and 6 Thai vessels have been similarly apprehended. The apprehended vessels and the crew have been handed over to the local Police authorities for legal action.

#### **Cultural Accord with Bulgaria**

4014 SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have a proposal to establish cultural relations with Bulgaria

(b) whether any accord in this connection has been signed with that country and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF M G K MENON) (a) to (c) A Cultural Agreement between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of Bulgaria was signed on 20.2.1963. This