

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

Agreement provides for the promotion of cultural relations and mutual cooperation in scientific, educational and cultural fields between the two countries. In implementation of this Agreement, successive Programmes of bilateral cooperation in the fields of culture, science and education have been signed and implemented. The last such Programme was signed on 2nd March, 1990 in Sofia. This Programme broadly envisages interaction in the fields of science and education, languages, art and culture, museology, sports, exchange of exhibitions of paintings, art objects, arts and crafts, children's works, and the like. Exchange of experts in various disciplines relating to science, education and culture, as also of artistes including performing artistes, participation in international film festivals organized in each other's country, organization of film weeks, interaction between radio and television organizations of the two countries, and organization of an Indian Cultural Manifestation in Bulgaria in 1991 and a Bulgarian Cultural Manifestation in India in 1992.

Indian Televisions at International Airports

4015 SHRIJANARDHANAPOOJARY
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to allow Indian T.V. manufacturers to sell their products in duty free shops at international airports, and

(b) 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) and (b) Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) vide their Gazette Notifications

No. 143/89-CE dated 19.5.1989 and No. 70/90-CE, dated 20.3.90 have permitted duty free movement of certain electronic goods specified therein, including T.V. to be sold in the duty free shops in the arrival halls of the international airports in India against foreign currency to passengers arriving from abroad. The specified electronic goods are permitted to be cleared by manufacturers, without payment of Central Excise Duty, directly to duty free shops for sale against foreign currency.

Degradation of ecology in Gangotri-Gomukh areas

4016 SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether there is widespread degradation of ecology in the Gangotri-Gomukh areas,

(b) if so, what are its causes,

(c) whether hotels and residential quarters set up on the banks of the river Bhagirathi are adding to the pollution in the river, and

(d) if so, the preventive steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI)

(a) to (c) There has been some degradation in the ecology of the Gangotri-Gomukh area and increase in the river pollution following increased numbers of visitors, including overnight visitors for which enhanced hotel and residential accommodation facilities have been provided and the number of permanent inhabitants has also increased very significantly, all following in the wake of the extension of a motorable road to Gangotri.