

Scientific Interest in Youth

*91. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI:
SHRI ABDUL HAMID:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government sent some young scientists on international travel in the Seventh Plan period under the scheme "Promotion of scientific interest in youth" if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any evaluation has been made of their observations and experience; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. As part of the Department of Science and Technology's scheme "Promotion of Scientific Interest in Youth", about 100 young scientist, below 35 years of age, are supported for participation in international conferences every year on an average. This scheme provides opportunities to young scientists to participate in international conferences, workshops and training courses/Summer/Winter Schools and exchange of ideas on the latest developments in science and technology in related subjects.

These opportunities enable young scientists to gain experience, which has relevance to the thrust areas of research identified by the Government from time to time. As a result of such exposure, young scientists are able to take up R & D projects in these areas. The report on the participation of the young scientists along with their observa-

tions and experience is circulated to the relevant national Science and Technology institutions in the country to inform them of the deliberations at international conferences.

Setting up of Development Boards in Maharashtra

*92. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
SHRI D. B. PATIL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for setting up of statutory Development Boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada and Konkan region are proposed to be cleared shortly as assured by the Prime Minister during his recent visit to Nagpur; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard and at what stage the proposal stands?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): (a) A draft scheme for giving effect to the provisions of article 371 (2) of the Constitution was received from the Government of Maharashtra in February, 1989. It comprised of a draft order to be made by the President under the said provision and a draft order to be issued by the Governor in pursuance thereof, providing *inter alia* for establishment of Development Boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada and the rest of Maharashtra. After examination, the Government of Maharashtra have been requested to consider for recasting the Governor's order keeping in view the requirements of the State and legal opinion.

(b) The Government of Maharashtra made a proposal in April, 1989 for amending article 371 (2) (a) so as to include a specific provision for establishment of a separate development board for Konkan also. This proposal was examined and the State Gov-

ernment have been requested to furnish information on certain points to facilitate examination of the matter in proper perspective.

Privatisation of Defence Production

*94. SHRI AJOY BISWAS:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering privatisation of the defence production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b). Privatisation means handing over Government owned production units to the private sector. Govt. is not considering any proposal to hand over the ownership of any Defence production unit to the private sector.

Terrorists Activities in Punjab, Delhi and Adjoining States

*95. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pro-Khalistan terrorists have stepped up their violent activities with the intention of bringing about communal divide as is evident from New Delhi Railway Station bomb blast on 12 June, 1989 and Moga Killings in Punjab; and

(b) if so, the steps taken and proposed to be taken to contain those activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): (a) Government are aware that attempts to flare-up communal disharmony between Hindus and Sikhs has been a

major plank of the terrorists' strategy.

(b) Despite their efforts the terrorists have not succeeded in bringing about any such situation and the people of Punjab have maintained communal harmony. The security agencies are also vigilant and have taken necessary precautionary steps to maintain public order

[Translation]

Recruitment in Army From Madhya Pradesh

*96. SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the backwardness of Madhya Pradesh, any concrete plan has been chalked out for recruitment of jawans in the army from the State; and

(b) if so, the time by which this plan is proposed to be implemented and the number of young people likely to get employment under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) No such special plan has been drawn up.

(b) Does not arise.

Damage to Telecommunication System Due to Rain, Flood and Cyclone

*97. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any estimate of the extent of damage caused to telecommunication system due to rain, flood and cyclone in Orissa, West Bengal and other States during May, June and July, 1989;