(d) whether Government are also planning to send some scientists who are aware of the space technology or some pilots; if so the facts thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) The Government of the USSR have offered participation by an Indian astronaut in one of their future space flights.

(b) and (d). Government of India have indicated their willingness to accept this offer. However, details have not yet been worked out.

Foreign help to Pakistan to make H. Bomb

*134. SHRI K. MALLANNA:

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that recently Saudi Arabia has announced that it will help Pakistan to mnufacture an Hydrogen Bomb;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Indian Government thereon; and
- (c) the names of other countries which have supported Pakistan in nuclear field and military aid?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b). Government have seen press reports to this effect. Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have both denied them.

(c) Pakistan has reportedly received assistance in the nuclear field from some countries. It will not be desirable to disclose details. USA and China have mainly assisted Pakistan in the military field.

Result of increased in retention of Cement

*135. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the extent to which the cement production in the country is likely to go up and the import of cement is anticipated to be reduced as a result of increasing the retention price?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. A. SANGAMA): Remunerative retention price to a controlled industry cement industry is necessary to ensure its healthy functioning and growth. The Working Group on Cement Industry set up by the Planning Commission has estimated that an additional capacity of 22.69 millon tonnes is expected to materialise during the Sixth Five Year Plan period, substantially bridging the gap between demand and supply minimising the need for imports.

Foreign visit of Industry Minister for Collaboration for Maruti Car Project

*136. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:

SHRI R. L. BHATIA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he visited Paris last month to see the Renault factory and other automobile units to explore possibilities of technical collaboration for the public sector Maruti car project:
- (b) whether he also discussed with representatives of the French Government and the industry on matters of mutual co-operation between the two countries;
- (c) whether he also visited London thereafter; and
- (d) if so, the outcome of the visits and the decision, if any, taken by Government to enter into some sort of

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collaboration with any foreign automobile manufacturers?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DR. CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) to (d). A visit to U.K. was undertaken by the Minister of State for industry between the 31st of January and 4th February, 1981 at the invitation of the U.K. Government. Enroute to U.K., the Minister also visited France. The visits were undertaken with a view to expanding cooperation with these countries including the automotive industry, Visits were made, inter alia, to the Peugeot car manufacturing unit in France and the factory of British Leyland in U.K. The management of these companies also the French and British Governments exhibited interest in the proposed automobile project. A decision on entering into collaboration will be taken after examining details of the proposals that may be received from the automobile manufacturers have been invited to submit offers.

Raising the Cement Production Capacity

- *137. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCIN-DIA: Will the Minister of INDUS-TRY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have decided to raise the cement production capacity by another 22.5 million tonnes by 1984-85; and
- (b) if so, the details of the additional capacity to be raised under the programme in different States and in different sectors?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIP). A. SANGMA: (a) and (b). The Working Group for cement industry appointed by the Planning Commission have estimated that an additional capacity of 22.69 million tonnes is expected to materialise by 1984-85 during the Sixth Plan period. The details are given in a statement laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Details of the capacities likely to come up during the Sixth Five Year Plan State-Wise and sector-Wise.

(In Million Tonnes) State **Public** Private TOTAL Sector Sector 1. Andhra Pradesh 1 . 80 5.64 3.84 2. Bihar . 0.13 0. 13: 3. Gujarat 1.00 1.00 4. Himachal Pradesh . 0.56 o· 56 5. Jammu & Kashmir 0.20 0.20 6. Karnataka 0.40 1.54 1.94 7. Kerala . 0.42 0.42 8. Madhya Pradesh 0.80 3.80 4.60 9. Maharashtra 2.26 2. 26 10. Orissa . 2.13 2.13 11. Rajasthan 1.80 1 . 80 12. Tamil Nadu 0.70 0.70 13. Uttar Pradesh 1 . 68 1·68 . . 14. West Bengal 0.26 2.26 . . Total: 22·6g 7.69 15.00