

(b) whether Government propose to lay a copy of the correspondence on the subject on the Table;

(c) whether Government also propose to lay the subsequent memoranda addressed by different parties with copies thereof to the Prime Minister on the Table; and

(d) whether Government have drawn the attention of the Bureau of Public Enterprises to the sad state of affairs in the State Trading Corporation's management ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) to (d). Government have received letters from the two Hon'ble Members of Parliament as well as from the State Trading Corporation's Employees' Union about matters relating to recruitment, promotions, postings, etc. in the Corporation. These have been examined by the management of the Corporation as well as by the Government. The management of the Corporation, which is an autonomous organisation, has already reached an agreement with the Employees' Union on several matters relating to the Corporation's Personnel.

Government do not agree with the statement that the Corporation's management is in a sad state of affairs.

SOVIET AVIATION MINISTERS' VISIT TO INDIA

*791. **SHRI D. N. PATODIA:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Aviation Ministers from U.S.S.R. visited Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the purpose of their visit;

(c) the subjects that were discussed with them; and

(d) whether the question of purchase of Soviet civilian aircrafts also figured and the details of other subjects discussed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). They visited India in response to an invitation from the Defence Minister. This opportunity was availed of to discuss matters connected with the MiG-21 aircraft (including its improved version) and the overhaul of Soviet aircraft/aeroengines.

(d) No, Sir.

TRAVELLING REGULATION RELATING TO ARMY PERSONNEL

*792. **SHRI P. VISWAMBHARAN:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to Travel Regulation, 341 Army personnel could travel only 600 miles each way with their families once in a year;

(b) whether Government are aware that this restriction on distance is causing considerable hardship to the Army personnel, particularly those coming from South India, as the Army is mostly concentrated in the North; and

(c) whether Government propose to change this regulation so as to enable the Army personnel to travel with their families once in a year to their home anywhere in India irrespective of the distance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) to (c). According to Regulation 341 of the Travel Regulations—which rule is applicable only to Service Officers—a Service Officer is entitled to travel at Government cost 965 Kilometres each way to his leave station once every year. However, in accordance with Rule 340, a Service Officer is entitled to travel in alternate years to/from his home town irrespective of distance in lieu of his entitlement in that year under Rule 341.

Wives of Service Officers are entitled to travel at Government cost 965 Kilometres each way once every year in accordance with the prescribed conditions.

In addition, a Service Officer of the rank of Lt.-Colonel and below and his wife and children are also entitled to concession vouchers which enable them to travel by payment of less than the normal fare.

The Service Officers and their families are also entitled to certain travel concessions in respect of air travel, travel on medical grounds, etc. in accordance with the prescribed conditions.

The Leave Travel Rules have further been liberalised with effect from 1964 in order to entitle the married officers serving in the field areas to conveyance every year to visit their families wherever residing

in India without any distance limit. This is in lieu of the facilities available under Rules 340 and 341 of the Travel Regulations.

The Leave Travel Regulations are considered adequate and reasonable.

SYMPOSIUM ON SCIENCE FOR CITIZENS

*793. SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a four-day symposium on Science for Citizens was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, whether it was decided to have a closer liaison between Scientists through mass communication media;

(c) if so, the other decisions arrived at; and

(d) whether Government have decided to implement these decisions?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

List of Decisions arrived at the Science for Citizens Symposium (Science Reporter Forum).

1) The Symposium discussed the suggestion made by the Minister of Education and Youth Services (Prof. V.K.R.V. Rao) in his inaugural speech on November 27, 1969 regarding the organisation of a Science Brains Trust and a Science Information Centre linked to the Science Reporter and Information Unit of the CSIR, and supported both ideas and resolved that a suitable plan be prepared for consideration of the Vice-President, C.S.I.R. (Minister of Education and Youth Services).

(2) Symposia such as 'Science for Citizens' be organised at regular intervals by the CSIR in collaboration with appropriate bodies such as AINEC at regular intervals to strengthen the liaison between scientists and chiefs of mass media including the daily newspapers.

(3) Mass media like All India Radio, T.V., Films Division and the daily newspapers should have science writers in their organisations to cover science and technology news promptly and accurately. Scientists should be encouraged to communicate with the mass media for dissemination of science and technology.

(4) Every effort be made by the daily newspapers and other mass media and the scientists in the national laboratories, universities and elsewhere to appreciate each other's role in informing the lay citizen about the developments in science and technology in a simple easy to understand language. The conference noted with satisfaction the demand for science information by the young generation which was evident from the growing circulation of *Science Today*, *Science Reporter* and other science periodicals and felt that such efforts be encouraged by the government and other agencies for dissemination of science and technology.

(d) The suggestions are under consideration.

IMPORT OF COPRA FROM CEYLON

*794. SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India is improving copra in large quantities from Ceylon;

(b) the reason for not exploiting the rich coconut wealth in Kerala and other coastal region; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to step up the production of coconut to avoid imports from Ceylon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) India imports small quantities of copra, to fill the gap between internal production and requirements.

(b) The coconut wealth of Kerala and other states is fully utilised for meeting the requirements of copra and coconut oil in the country and earning foreign exchange by export of coconut products, namely, coir goods and copra deoiled cake.