

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.