

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Government is not planning to set up any new Committee as the Department of Biotechnology has already set up a Committee jointly with University Grants Commission to coordinate, monitor and review the advanced Post-Graduate teaching programmes in Biotechnology in Indian Universities/institutions. This Committee reviews various aspects of Biotechnology Post-Graduate programmes including joint entrance examination, course curricula, industrial training for students during summer and interaction with potential employers.

SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH: In reply to my question, Government have said that the existing Joint Committee will do the needful at the university level for higher technology. My first question is what specific projects the Government have undertaken which will create a break-through and help us in a big way and in what way the universities are being linked with it?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: Government have supported the various biotechnology projects in universities and other research institutions. There are 17 universities which are being supported by the Department of Biotechnology in a variety of fields. There are a large number of projects. I can read them out or send that to the hon. Member. The projects are in basic development by using biotechnology in agriculture, embryo transfer, methods for cattle herd improvement, things like sterilization of animals and also sterilization of human beings. Research is going on in some of our Institutes. All these projects are being supported financially as well as otherwise through supply of equipment etc., by the Department of Biotechnology. The U.G.C. is also involved in this.

SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH: From our experience we find that research at university level remains confined to universities only and it has no application. Therefore I

would like to know what are the universities that are getting assistance and how much of their research results has been put into application.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: One of the major efforts of the Department of Bio Technology has been to bring about a linkage between university research institutions in bio-technology and industries. In fact we have taken several steps for inducing industries to cooperate with the research institutions and vice-versa. Some of the important results are in tissue culture which is being practised on a very large scale the manufacture of biological fertilisers which are originally invented by laboratories and that are being put into production today; biological pest control agents; production of hybrid seeds which are also being practised in a very large scale but originally evolved in our bio-technology laboratories. These are some of the examples in the field of cattle. In the animal field we have embryo transfer technology which was evolved in our laboratories and then transferred to the public and are being very widely practised today in India.

The development of vaccines is another important thing which has been productionised. We have very big schemes for the production of polio vaccines as well as vaccines for measles, rabies etc. for which we are setting up some very important major industries.

Construction of 5-Star Hotels by Foreign Firms

*454. **SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA†:**
SHRI SURESH KURUP:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed foreign firms to set up five star hotels in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of the companies and places where

these hotels are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, equity participation by foreign hotel chains is allowed as per the rules and procedures followed for the purpose.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: The Minister has said no. But here I have papers with me where it is said that seven foreign companies are there to set up five star hotels in India. At least seven leading foreign companies have made enquiries to set up five star hotels in India since the issue of revised guidelines for foreign collaboration for hotels in India. In this connection may I know from the Hon. Minister what are the detailed guidelines for foreign collaboration for hotels in India?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We are allowing the foreign hotel chains to help our hotels in planning, management and marketing. To that extent they can collaborate with each other. To see that they have the interest in the financial performance of the hotels in the country, they are allowed to have the equity also and they can get the equity upto 40% and they can in certain cases go beyond 4% also.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: In the Minister's reply it is said 'however, equity participation by foreign hotel chains is allowed with prior approval of Government of India'. The equity participation in foreign exchange has been raised from 40% to 51% enabling the foreign collaborators to have control of the shares. If it is so, may I know whether any control will be in Indian hands vis-a-vis the collaborators because their equity share is 51% and they will control the whole affairs.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The Hon. Member is relying upon what is reported in the newspapers. I have not said that that is the policy we have evolved. But some thinking on this matter is going on. As to how that

is to be done will crystalise after taking into account all aspects.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: What kind of technology India is lacking which it is seeking through foreign collaboration for hotel purposes? As far as we know Indian management and Indian people have a number of hotels in foreign countries. What are the reasons—monetary or otherwise—which have compelled the Government to take the decision to have collaboration with foreign countries for hotel purposes?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I appreciate what has been said by the hon. Member. The hotel industry in India is very much developed. Our hotel chains are going to other countries and establishing hotels there. At the same time it has to be appreciated that there are certain areas in which the technologies in foreign countries are developing very fast and it would be useful for us to make use of those technologies, that is, communication technology, management methods, etc. Further when the hotel chains in India have connections with hotel chains abroad then the publicity and the marketing benefits which is at their disposal becomes available to the hotel chains in India also. As tourism is developing it is better to have inter-action; we may help the other hotels and the other hotels also may help us. In the areas of advanced technology there may be some help coming to us but that does not mean our hotel industry is not developed. It means we are trying to do better.

[Translation]

Review of Public Grievances Committees in States

*455. SHRI SHANKAR LAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether district level Public Grievances Committees have been constituted in all the States;

(b) whether there is uniformity in constituting these Committees in all the States or