

an initiative to launch a US-India biotech alliance under the aegis of US-India Economic Dialogue. It is just a proposal at this stage.

(b) and (c) According to the information received from CI I, private industry and institutional participation will be coordinated by the Confederation of Indian Industry in India and by the US-India Business Council in US. Major activities of the proposed alliance will be focused on support to the development of biotech industry in India, promote commercial joint ventures, collaborative research, public-private partnerships, technology trade, licensing and distribution agreements. The scope of cooperation will also include organisation of specialised conferences and seminars, executive missions to both countries, fellowships and funding research, meeting of experts for regulatory and legal reforms, advocacy to remove impediments in the biotechnology trade, establish working group on international trade and treaties, video-conferences and Internet-based communication. Possible areas for research may include bioinformatics, genomics, diagnostics, vaccines, recombinant therapeutic proteins, new drug discovery, agricultural, industrial and environmental biotechnology and training of personnel.

#### **Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra**

\*383. SHRIMATIGURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1418 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th March, 2002 and state:

(a) whether all the eligible Readers/Selection Grade Lecturers with Ph.D. degree, in the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra, have since been granted two advance increments, as admissible under the Rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the information provided by the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, all eligible Readers have been granted two advance increments as admissible under the Rules.