

[2nd March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

establishment of CSIR transferred the copyright of its data bases, Wealth of India and Medicinal & Aromatic Plants Abstracts, to Asian Health Environment and Allied Databases, after 1994; if so, the details thereof;

(b) what are the details of the agreement; and

(c) if not, the action taken or to be taken, if any, for publishing the above valuable data bases consisting of medicinal plants, mineral resources etc. in the CD-ROM entitled "Wealth Asia" marked as copyright 1997?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI):

(a) and (b) No Sir, NISCOM contributed two of its data bases for CD-ROM project of AHEAD. The copyright of the individual databases included in Asian Health Environmental and Allied Databases (AHEAD) CD-ROM discs arrested with the participating organizations of AHEAD which contributed data. The copyright of Wealth of India and Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Abstracts databases remained with NISCOM. 40% of the net sales revenue generated was to be paid to the copyright owning organisations. The discs had an expiry mechanism and could be used for a limited period of one year from the date of their release. The last disc was brought out in 1998. NISCOM resigned from AHEAD w.e.f. 21 Sept., 1999.

(c) Does not arise.

88th Indian Science Congress

980. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister inaugurated the 88th Indian Science Congress in New Delhi on 3rd January, 2001;

(b) if so, whether he launched a science based crusade to eliminate starvation and malnutrition, especially among women and children by 2007, and urged the Indian scientists to help meet the nation's food and nutritional needs, without harming the environment;

(c) if so, the main topics discussed in this meeting;

(d) whether any suggestions were made in the conference to Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what steps Government propose to take to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. A 'Vision Document' released on the occasion affirms a science based crusade to eliminate starvation and malnutrition, especially among women and children by 2007.

(c) Various sections, committees and fora of the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) on different subjects discussed the issues related to the focal theme — "Food, Nutrition and Environmental Security".

(d) to (f) The draft recommendations of the 88th Science Congress have been referred to the Indian Science Congress Association Calcutta, the organisers of Science Congress Sessions for final processing. The recommendations of the Science Congress form an important input to policy and programme formulation of the Government and will continue to do so in the case of the 88th Science Congress as well.

Prior intimation for Gujarat Earthquake

981. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received prior intimation, apprehending the possibility of an earthquake in Gujarat from the Earth Science Institute, Thiruvananthapuram; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not undertaking precautionary measures, to reduce the magnitude of the worst disaster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Sir, presently there is no scientific technique available anywhere in the world to forecast the earthquakes with reasonable degree of accuracy in space, time and magnitude. No intimation apprehending the possibility of an earthquake in Gujarat had been received from the Earth Science Institute, Thiruvananthapuram.

Partnership for Technology Vision, 2020

982. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the Indian Science Congress held in New Delhi recently, the Principal Scientific Advisor called on Government to