

with the revival of the economy and the upbeat investment sentiment prevailing, the performance of the sector in the remaining years of the Plan would be better and Plan targets would be met. The progress of various projects in the port sector is being monitored closely at various levels.

Agreements with US Institutions

3000. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government entered into collaborative agreements with various institutions of us under US-India knowledge initiative;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that several research institutions and universities entered into agreements with their counterparts in US under the agreement;
- (d) if so, the institution-wise details thereof; and
- (e) the fields of research for which they are collaborating?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Consequent upon the understanding on cooperation in agriculture during the visit of Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to the United States and meeting with H.E. President of USA, Mr. George W. Bush in July, 2005, the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agreed to work together for a Indo-US Knowledge Initiative on Agricultural Education, Research, Services and Commercial Linkages. The objective of the Initiative is to re-energize Indo-US partnership by promoting teaching, research, service and commercial linkages to address contemporary challenges. It is particularly intended to promote agricultural education, research service and linkages in the areas of (i) Education, learning resources, curriculum development and training; (ii) Food processing and use of by-products and biofuels; (iii) Biotechnology; and (iv) Water management.

- (c) No Sir.
- (d) and (e) Does not arise.

Human Genome

3001. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: