

However, only one case of robbery was reported during the year 2000-2001 (April to June, 2000) in Hirakhand Express.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Foreign members of Asian Health Environment and Allied Databases

3558. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign citizens/organisations are/were members of the society called Asian Health Environment and Allied Databases, registered on 12th August 1994 (No. s/26497), with Registrar of Societies, Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details regarding occupation and address of the above members, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) NISCOM has in 1999, withdrawn from the consortium AHEAD for CD-ROM Project due to administrative reasons. Now no further activity relating to the project is being carried on at NISCOM, accordingly, the information is not available.

(b) Does not arise.

Transgenic crops

†3559. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in 'The Times of India' dated 21st July, 2000 under the caption, "concern over effects of transgenic crops";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that many scientific institutions of certain developed and developing countries have expressed concern over transgenic food crops; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[25 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

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

(b) and (c) The Science Academies around the world including U.K., U.S., Brazil, China, Mexico, India and Third World Academy of Sciences have discussed various aspects of Transgenic Plants and World Agriculture. Their views are that for improving food production and for reducing environmental impacts, a proper responsible utilization of scientific discoveries and new technologies are necessary. Food can be produced through the use of Genetically Modified technology that are more nutritious, stable in storage and in principle, health promoting and bringing benefits to consumers in both developing and industrialised nations. Co-operative efforts between private and public sectors are needful to develop new transgenic crops that benefit consumers, especially in the developing world. Public health regulatory systems need to be in place for monitoring the impacts of transgenics. The Academies have welcomed Genetically Modified crop technology and have recommended that the technology be adopted both by the developed and the developing countries with adequate biosafety regulations. The report of the Scientific Academies is a balanced publication. Biosafety Guidelines in India are exhaustive and adequate to assess the risks, if any, from the use of GM crops to the environment including human and animal health. GM crops can be introduced into commercial agriculture only after assessing their safety and agronomic advantages.

Royalty to NISCOM by AHEAD

3560. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the address of the authority in Asian Health Environment and Allied Database (AHEAD) which forwarded royalties to National Institute of Science Communications for two databases for CD-ROM Projects of AHEAD; and

(b) the total income accrued to AHEAD and the details of royalties paid to other member organisations for the last three years, year-wise, giving details regarding addresses of the organisations, amount paid?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The