

Trombay, has evolved high-yielding strains of rice and if so, what would be their impact upon rice production;

(b) what, if any, are the successful experiments in the use of Atomic Energy with reference to the other food products like groundnuts, maize and tropical fruits; and

(c) whether radio isotopes are being produced in APSARA and if so, with what effect upon industry and medicine ?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay, has evolved two promising mutants (strains) of rice which have consistently shown a higher yield potential when compared with the original types (controls) from which they were derived.

While it is difficult to give a precise estimate of their impact on rice production, it is expected that the higher yielding mutants evolved would make for generally higher production in the country.

(b) (i) *Groundnut*—Successful results in terms of higher yields have been obtained with groundnut by using ionizing radiations.

(ii) *Maize*—Experiments carried out at Trombay are designed to shed light on the nature of special determinants and the way in which they govern male sterility in maize.

(iii) *Other food products including tropical fruits*—Gamma radiation from Cobalt 60 sources has been successfully used in Laboratory experiments for delayed ripening of mangoes, guavas, sapotas and tomatoes, for preservation of semi-dried bananas and for sterilized (canned) products such as mango guava and sapota slices, with improved attributes of flavour, texture, taste and colour.

Promising results have also been obtained on use of radiation for grain disinfection, preservation of *chapathis* and extension in shelf-life of fish like "Bombay duck" and shrimps.

(c) Radioisotopes produced in Apsara and CIRUS are being supplied to about 150 medical institutions and industrial establishments. In the medical field the use of radioisotopes for diagnostic purposes and therapy, particularly in the field of cancer, treatment has helped in the alleviation of human suffering. In industry the use of isotopes ensures proper quality control particularly for non-destructive testing in castings and welds.

VIETNAM PEACE CONFERENCE

*613. SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Conference of South-East Asian Nations has been convened by Thailand to consider the problem of peace in Vietnam; and

(b) if so, whether Government have received invitation for attending this conference ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir, but the Foreign Ministers of Thailand, Malaysia and Philippines have approached a number of countries, including India, to join them in an urgent appeal to the leaders of all countries involved in the war in Vietnam to come to the conference table to achieve an early settlement of the conflict.

TALKS WITH UNDERGROUND NAGA LEADERS

*614. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN : SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the broad details of the talks held with the underground Naga Leaders on the 10th and 11th August, 1966 and whether the talks would be continued in future; and

(b) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) The Minister of State has already made a statement on 18th August in Rajya Sabha on the

outcome of the talks with the Underground Naga delegation.

(b) No date has been fixed so far.

† MINISTER FOR DELHI AFFAIRS

*270. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to appoint a Minister for Delhi affairs; and

(b) if so, when he will be appointed ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration; nor is any change in the existing arrangements contemplated at present.

(b) Does not arise.

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC INDUSTRIAL SECTORS

725. SHRI JAIRAMDAS DAULATRAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether plans for mobilising the private and public industrial sectors for meeting the needs of our Armed Forces in respect of either machinery or its components or spare parts have progressed satisfactorily; and

(b) whether steps have been taken by way of special economic or other awards or other inducements and methods to speed up this process ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND ALSO THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following steps have been taken in order to mobilise private and public industrial centres for meeting the needs of our armed forces in respect of either machinery or its components or spare parts :—

(i) Show-rooms have been established at Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay and Madras, displaying more than 12,000 items consisting of imported components and spare parts.

(ii) Meetings with private industrialists have been held at important industrial cen-

tres in the country and they have been invited to see these samples and then indicate what items they can manufacture indigenously.

(iii) Procurement procedures have been simplified. In order to establish reliable and dependable sources of supply, the likely manufacturers of stores are directly approached and contracts finalised after negotiations.

(iv) Technical guidance is provided during the process of manufacture.

(v) Assistance is given in the provision of scarce raw materials.

(vi) Items for which indigenous production is being established in the country, 100 per cent of first year's requirement and 80 per cent of second year's requirement on successful completion of educational order are placed on the party which has established production.

(vii) In the case of items requiring use of expensive raw materials or where processing time involved in production of stores is long, on account or advance payments are also considered.

प्रधान मंत्री की विदेश यात्रा

726. श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरङ्गिया : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि हाल में प्रधान मंत्री ने रूस तथा अन्य देशों का जो दौरा किया उस समय उनके दल में किस-किस पद के कितने अधिकारी थे ?

† [P.M.'s VISIT ABROAD

726. SHRI V. M. CHORDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the number of officers with their designations who were included in the Prime Minister's team during her recent visit to the Soviet Union and other countries ?

प्रधान मंत्री (श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी) : सभा पटल पर एक विवरण रख दिया गया है ।

† Postponed from the 16th August, 1966.

† [] English translation.