

[28th July, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(d) the action proposed to ensure that scientists are not harassed and can concentrate on their research countries?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) Both the Directors were on foreign service terms with CSIR. On the Specific requests made based on purely personal reasons and with the approval of the competent authority they have been repatriated to their respective parent departments.

Research, on Genetic Code

770. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent findings made on genetic code; and

(b) if so, whether Government also propose to start separate research in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAW AT): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the announcement on June 26, 2000 of a working draft of human genome sequence.

(b) The Government of India since 1990 has already started a focussed programme on Human Genome and Indian initiative, Human Genome Diversity and Gene Therapy. Fourteen genetic diagnosis-cum counselling units have been established in different regions to provide pre-natal diagnosis and counselling to the affected families for common genetic disorders prevalent in the country. Programmes on Functional Genomics and Human Genome Diversity have given promising research leads. A National Bioethics Committee has been set up. A sound infrastructure and expertise has been

created for research on most important aspects of genomics relevant to India, specially for studying the genetic disorders.

Litigations against CSIR by its Employees

771. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of litigations, filed by the employees of council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), in which CSIR is a respondent, are pending in various Tribunals and Courts all over the country; and

(b) if so, the number of such cases filed, pending, disposed and dismissed in various Tribunals and Courts all over the country alongwith the money spent as fees to the lawyers laboratory-wise and category-wise?

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

(b) A state showing details like the number of cases filed, pending, disposed and dismissed in various Tribunals and Courts alongwith the money spent as fees to lawyers laboratory-wise and category-wise is enclosed as Annexure. [See Appendix 190, Annexure No. 2]

Purchasing of Instruments in CSIR

772. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instruments of worth many lakhs were purchased in the Centre of Biochemical Technology, a constituent establishment of CSIR, for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details—name and cost of the instrument, date of inviting quotation, quotation received etc.—of the purchase of instruments of value more than fifty thousand done in CBT for the last three year; and