

(c) whether BARC extends research collaborative in field of Agriculture with Navsari Agriculture University for joint research for mangoes by using atomic methods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) Research & Development activities pertaining to the activities of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) are being pursued in various universities / academic institutions in different states of the country by sponsoring R&D projects through the Board of Research in Nuclear Science (BRNS). As a part of this programme since 2005, 37 R&D projects were sponsored in the Gujarat State. Out of these, 17 projects were sponsored during the last three years. Besides R&D projects, BRNS also provides grant for conducting national/international seminars conferences across the country. In Gujarat state, in the last three years, about 14 conferences were provided grant by BRNS;

In addition to above, studies on radiation based induced mutagenesis for crop improvements along with conventional breeding have been underway at BARC, Mumbai since several decades. Using both mutation and recombination breeding in groundnut, BARC has developed 14 groundnut varieties and are released and notified for commercial cultivation across the country. As a part of this, five varieties namely TAG 24, Somnath, TG 26, TG 37A and TPG 41 were released for Gujarat through active collaboration with Directorate of Groundnut Research (DGR), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Junagadh and Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh. Besides, recently released varieties like TG 38, TLG 45 and TG 51 (released elsewhere) are also popular among Gujarat farmers. These activities were continued in Gujarat State during the past three years.

New groundnut breeding lines of BARC having disease resistance are evaluated by Agricultural Research Station, Talod, Gujarat. Recently, Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari has undertaken evaluation of advanced breeding lines of groundnut at four regional research stations. BARC is actively collaborating with Agricultural Universities at Junagadh and Anand for some of these activities.

(b) For the BRNS sponsored R&D projects in Gujarat State, an amount of Rs. 89.30 lakh was allocated during 2009, 2010 & 2011 and Rs. 12.65 lakh towards conducting national/international conferences during 2010, 2011 & 2012.

(c) BARC would extend research collaboration in the field of agriculture with Navsari Agriculture University, if a specific proposal which is scientifically worth pursuing, is received.

Protest against Kudankulam Nuclear Plant

937. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK :
SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister's charge that civil society groups

were misusing funds from America and other western countries to stoke protests at the Kudankulam nuclear plant;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Russian stand has been vindicated; and
- (d) by when, the plant would become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) to (c) There are reports about some organizations diverting funds for purposes other than the permitted use of foreign funds. These matters are being investigated.

(d) The government is making all efforts to normalize the situation to enable early restart of the work on the project. The date of plant becoming operational can be assessed after normalization of the situation.

Harrassment to the Passengers in Flights

938. SHRI D. RAJA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the two recent incidents, one the case of a women passenger with cerebral palsy was rudely deplaned by a Spice Jet flight and in another case a women suffering from muscular dystrophy was harassed by Jet Airways functionary, not recognizing and respecting the human rights of the disabled people and flouting the DGCA's guidelines in this regard; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action is taken against these two Airways?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Three cases of harassment faced by physically challenged passengers were reported to the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), two in the year 2011 and one in 2012. The details and Action Taken report on these cases are given in the Statement (*See below*). No such case reported to the DGCA against Jet Airways during the period.

DGCA has issued Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) on "Carriage of Passenger by air with disability and/or with reduced mobility", which is being strictly adhered to by the airlines. The said CAR is available on DGCA website. Violation of the provisions of CAR is punishable under the Schedule VI of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

Statement

Details and A.T.R. on the three cases of harassment faced by physically challenged passengers

1. On 10th May 2011, Mrs. Mansuri Shabana and Master Mansuri Lukmaan (Child) were travelling alongwith an infant on Kingfisher Airlines flight on Ahmedabad-