

(a) whether the Government are aware that recently there has been many well informed articles based on RAFI communiques and RAFI Press Releases made available by the Concerns based at New Delhi on the subject of Biodiversity, biopiracy and patenting of seeds belonging to the third world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that Society for Citizen concern, New Delhi has been promoting the above causes for Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI) in India;

(d) whether such NGos are being supported by the Government and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any inventory of common seeds and varieties of plants and animal resources and breeds etc. of main crops, fruits and vegetables and, medicinal plants has been prepared and if so, the details thereof indicating the authorities in charge; and

(f) whether there is any information on the pest resistance of these indigenous varieties and if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (f). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Technology Mission for Spices

3974. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have requested the Union Government to provide financial assistance for setting up of Technology Mission for development of spices in the States;

(b) if so, the names of States alongwith the assistance sought by them; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Irregularities in Reservations

3975. SHRI BHEEM SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item "Kamai ka jariya ban gaya hai VIP arakshan kota" appeared in Delhi Edition of 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated June 1, 1994;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the various types of irregularities in reservations on Northern Railway?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.