

- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have approved the project;
- (d) if so, when;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether clearance from Environment Department, Finance Department, Institute of Coastal Engineering and Planning Commission have been obtained; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b). A project proposal for development of fishery harbour at Ponnani at an estimated cost of Rs. 916.00 lakhs has been received from the State Government in April, 1995.

(c) to (e). On technical scrutiny of the project proposal, the State Government have been requested to carry out model studies and then prepare a Techno-Economic Feasibility Report for establishing the technical and economic viability of the project.

(f) and (g). The environmental clearance has been obtained, but for obtaining clearances from other agencies, the Techno-Economic Feasibility Report would be necessary.

#### Intensive Research on Agriculture Sector

5908. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a need to conduct intensive research in the agricultural sector has arisen as a consequence of GATT agreement; and
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to meet this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir, 'overall research activities have been strengthened and the following steps have been taken to meet the situation :

- (i) Development of varieties of crops plants specially suited for export purposes such as basmati rice, durum wheat etc.
- (ii) Development of varieties of maize for industrial uses such as starch and other products which have export value.
- (iii) Research on 'OO' varieties of Rapeseed and Mustard for export potential of quality oilmeal.
- (iv) Work on bio-technology is being intensified in the area of Molecular Biology and Plant Cell Culture for crop improvement.
- (v) Development of technology and equipment for reduction of post harvest losses, value-

addition of farm produce, agro-waste and by product utilization as well handling and processing of cotton, jute and other fibres for high quality yarn and produce and also their by-product utilization.

- (vi) Collection, evaluation, cataloguing and conservation of germplasm.

#### Investment in Higher Education

5909. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Union Government have asked the industry to invest in higher education;
- (b) if so, whether this scheme is likely to be introduced immediately; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c). The Government has given 100% tax exemption in respect of the contributions made to the approved universities and Institutions of National Eminence. In pursuance of this, the UGC has appealed to the industry to provide donations to the universities and Institutions of Higher Education and claim tax exemption under Section 80 G (2) (a) of the Income Tax Act.

[Translation]

#### Kendriya Vidyalayas

5910. DR. SUDHIR RAY :  
SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether many Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers of Bhopal have been certified of MIC Gas Tragedy victims with different degrees of disablement;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether some stay at Bhopal is must for proper treatment and investigation;
- (d) if so, whether Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has not cancelled their transfers to places outside Bhopal; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (e). Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan does not have any record of the employees