

(b) if so, the extent to which this microscope had been utilised and had proved useful;

(c) whether there is any proposal for purchasing more such microscopes; and

(d) if so, how far these would be utilised by the Institute?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Sir, A Transmission Electronic Microscope was purchased by the Institute about 15 years ago.

(b) The transmission electronic microscope has been in regular use for the purpose for which it had been purchased.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister's Allegation against Indian Intelligence Agencies

1674. SHRISANTOSH KUMARGANGWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the reported statement of Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, appearing in the Hindi Daily "Jansatta" dated 15 February, 1990, that RAW is creating instability in Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As already clarified in a statement of the official spokesman, on February 16, these

allegations are entirely baseless.

Commodity Management Board

1675. SHRI L.K. ADVANI:
SHRI SHANKERSINH
VAGHELA:
SHRI T. BASHEER:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Commodity Management Board;

(b) if so, the objective, composition and functions of the Board and the mechanism to be provided to the Board for realisation of the said objectives; and

(c) whether the proposed Commodity Management Board will supersede or supplement the already existing commodity boards on coffee, tea and spices?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) to (c). The Government propose to set up a Commodity Management Board for export and import of agricultural commodities with effective representation of farmers and consumers. The legal basis, composition, functions etc. of the Board are still under discussion and have not been finalised so far. However all agricultural commodities except those which are already covered by the specific Boards are proposed to be covered under the purview of the proposed Agricultural Board subject to some rationalisation of functions with the existing Boards/Bodies.

Identity Cards to Residents of Border Districts

1676. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: