

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) In July 1998, seven Indian scientists working in the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA, were asked to wind up their work and leave the US. Similar action was not taken in the case of the remaining 23 scientists from India working at NIST.

US Spokesman subsequently stated that this action was not an across the board restriction on scientists from India, but on researchers from institutions which, the US believed, were involved with India's nuclear and missile programme.

(b) and (c) GOI position is that coercive and unilateral measures whether in the economic or technology field are counter-productive. Government considers US decision to deny visa and terminate research projects of certain Indian scientists as unwarranted. We do not agree with any targeted policy of denying and revoking visas particularly those which come in the way of scientific exchange and interaction.

The matter has been taken up with the US Government, including in the recent bilateral talks. There is no change in the US position so far.

[Translation]

#### Setting up of a Review Committee

3321. SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up any committee to analyse the reasons for non-completion of the Five Year Plan within the scheduled time and also to analyse the reasons for cost and time over-runs of several important projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the recommendation submitted to the Government and the decision taken by the Government on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) No Committee has been set up to review non-completion of the Ninth Five Year Plan. However, there is a mechanism of Standing Committees of Central Ministries/Departments to go into cost and time overruns of important projects.

The Government have also decided that in every case in which the project cost overrun is of over 20 per cent and is accompanied by time overrun of over 10 per cent (or such other time and cost overrun norms, as may be deemed appropriate by the Planning Commission, for

different types of projects), the Revised Cost Estimates should be brought up for approval of Government only after responsibility is determined for the cost and time overruns. Accordingly, the Planning Commission have devised a mechanism for fixing the responsibility in this regard and have circulated the same to the Secretaries/Financial Advisers of all Central Ministries/Departments for compliance.

[English]

#### Import of Butter Oil

3322. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import butter oil;

(b) if so, the total quantum of butter oil imported during 1996-1997 and 1998 separately;

(c) the total quantum of butter oil proposed to be imported during 1999-2000;

(d) the countries from which the butter oil is being imported; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (e) The Import of butter oil is under OGL. This Department has no proposal under consideration to import butter oil.

No import of butter oil has been reported for the period April, 1996 to March, 1997. The details of butter oil imported during April, 1997-March, 1998, and April, 1998 September, 1998 are as given below in the table:

Table

Name of the Country	April, 1997-March, 98 Quantity (Kg)	April, 1998-Sept. 98 Quantity (Kg)
1. Australia	289400	211000
2. Netherland	260	—
3. Newzealand	3170200	1791120
4. USA	784	—
Total	3460644	2002120

#### Support to Iraq and Cuba

3323. SHRI T GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been extending support to the people of Iraq and Cuba; and

(b) if so, the details of assistance extended by India to them during the last three years?