

larger engine. It is expected that the first indigenous stage will be available by the year 2000 based on a success based schedule.

(c) The development of the cryogenic engine under the CUS Project is entirely an indigenous effort and no foreign co-operation is involved.

(d) The budget outlay proposed by the Department for the CUS Project during the financial year 1998-99 is Rs. 45.35 crores. During the financial year, establishment of fabrication, processing, assembly and test facilities and realisation of hardware for Engine and state components are planned.

[Translation]

#### **Cotton Monopoly Scheme**

3060. SHRI JAISINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra have demanded from the Union Government for the regularisation of "Cotton monopoly scheme" being run in the interest of farmers;

(b) if so, the whether Government are contemplating to provide permanent recognition to this welfare scheme; and

(c) if so, time by which the recognition is likely to be provided to this welfare scheme by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Textiles received a proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra for grant of extension in the validity period of the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme of Maharashtra. The proposal is being examined in consultation with the concerned authorities.

#### **Special Recruitment Drive**

3061. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Personnel and Training had issued an Office Memorandum on August 29, 1997 to clear the back-log and to fill-up the present posts reserved for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes by a special recruitment drive; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken so far in this regard by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Pak Propaganda Against India**

3062. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :  
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakitsan Government have been issuing several statements against India after Pokhran nuclear tests;

(b) if so, the reaction of Indian Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to counters these statements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Government have seen numerous anti-India statements issued by the Government of Pakistan, as well as by senior Pakistani leaders after the Pokhran nuclear tests.

(b) and (c) Government deeply regret that such hostile statements were made by Pakistan. They are of the view that such statements are against the understanding that both countries will refrain from hostile propaganda against each other. While adhering to this understanding, Government have effectively exposed the propaganda contained in these statements, and made the correct position publicly known.

[English]

#### **Titanium Products**

3063. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for financial assistance for modernisation of Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited and Travancore Titanium Products Ltd. has been pending with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) A proposal was received from the Kerala