

[English]

**Persons Arrested on Charge of Espionage**

6651. SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested on charges of espionage during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases decided and those still pending alongwith reasons for the pending cases; and

(c) the number of persons acquitted, and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c). As per available information, during the last three years 247 persons were arrested on charges of espionage. During this period, 61 cases resulted in conviction and 73 cases are either under trial or under investigation. Three persons were acquitted by the Courts during this period.

**Reduction of Chemical Arms**

6652. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO  
BRAHMBHATT:  
SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD  
VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States of America and USSR have agreed to reduce the chemical arms so as to give peace in the world;

(b) if so, to what extent.

(c) whether this move has been welcomed by India and other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b). In their bilateral dialogue on chemical weapons the United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to start reducing their chemical weapons stocks even before the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention which is under negotiation within the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. The exact details of these reductions are still to be worked out.

(c) and (d). India and most other neutral and Non-aligned countries have welcomed the recent US-Soviet understanding on the reduction of their chemical weapons stock-piles. They hope that these reductions will be carried out as a part of the basic objective of the Chemical Weapons Convention under negotiation, completely to eliminate all chemical weapons and their production facilities within a period of ten years after the entry into force of the Convention.

[Translation]

**Visit of Indian Writers Delegations to Foreign Countries**

6653. PROF. SHAILENDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of delegations of Indian writers went to foreign countries during 1988-89, 1989-90 and the countries visited by them; and

(b) the total number of writers in the said delegations and the number of Hindi writers amongst them?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) During 1988-89, one Indian writers delegation went to Czechoslovakia and during 1989-90 two Indian writers delegations - one each to China and Bangladesh - were sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

(b) The information is as under: