

assured to provide information in writing to you.

[English]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: There are already reservations.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The reservation is to be maintained and we will see that it is maintained.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: I would like to know from the Minister, through you, Sir, whether on 3rd November, 1987, a letter was issued by this Ministry regarding certain guidelines about the allotment of LPG dealership and whether in those guidelines it was said that certain preferences would be given to co-operative societies. I also want to know whether cases of violation of this guideline have been brought to the notice of the Ministry in the Eastern Zone by the office of the Chief Minister of West Bengal and what steps have been taken by the Ministry in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is very limited. But then the Minister is on his legs. So, I have no objection.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Though the question is not directly related to the main question, I wish to inform the House that there have been reservations for the cooperative societies. There are two types of co-operative societies. One is the members of a particular co-operative society who are professionals or otherwise belonging to the same society as proposed or professed by the co-operative society and the other is the consumer co-operative society which has its own vehicle so that the purpose is served by having such an agency. In this regard, a reference was made by the West Bengal Chief Minister and I am looking into the matter.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the

Hon. Minister that the norms laid down by the Government for allotment of gas agencies are violated again and again and they are not followed. Although the market survey reports favour that gas agency should be allotted for a population of 20,000, but it takes years for the allotment of gas agency after that report. The main reason for the delay is callousness. Will the Government make an effort for the immediate allotment of gas agencies after the presentation of favourable report?

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: This is a suggestion for action.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the names of places in Himachal Pradesh where surveys have been conducted for the allotment of gas agencies and petrol pumps. To what extent the reserved quota for gas agencies is being given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh? The Hon. Minister is requested to provide details thereof.

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, at the moment I would not be able to give definite figures, but I will submit to the House that we would try to maintain the SC/ST reservations.

Relations with Independent Republics of erstwhile Soviet Union

*43. **SHRI P. M. SAYEED:**
SHRI E. AHAMED:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accorded recognition to all the independent Republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union;

(b) if so, the steps taken to establish diplomatic relations with them;

(c) whether it is proposed to conclude any Agreement or Treaty with these Republics for maintaining friendship and bilateral and multilateral co-operation in trade and other spheres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI
EDUARDO FALEIRO):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Diplomatic relations continue to exist with Russia and have already been established with Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. The process of establishment of diplomatic relations with the other Republics is underway.

(c) and (d) Agreements/Treaties would be signed with each of the independent Republics of the erstwhile USSR after bilateral consultations taking into account complementarity of interests and the need for development of co-operation in diverse and specific areas for mutual benefit. Some agreements have already been signed with Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Discussions are underway for conclusion of such agreements with other Republics such as Russia, Ukraine, Kirghizstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan, as necessary.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the reply, we are yet to establish our diplomatic relationship, in nine Republics.

Ukraine is very important to us strategically as we all know. I would like to know whether trade and technical agreement with these Republics, particularly Ukraine and Russia is already there or not. By what time, with these nine Republics we will establish our diplomatic relationship?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: As the Hon.

Member knows very well, one thing is establishment of diplomatic relationship. The other thing is actual opening of mission in the particular country or republic. Diplomatic relations with all the Republics have already been established. Opening of missions is underway. Some missions have physically been opened. In some Missions personnel have already been deployed. In some Missions Ambassadors have been appointed. These are structural adjustments that have to be made. But diplomatic relation with each and every Republic has already been established. In these where we have not yet opened the missions physically, our Ambassador in Moscow is concurrently accredited.

So, these are all structural adjustments in the process.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: I am not finding fault with the Minister. But the answer he has given is different from what he has just now stated. In the answer, he said, it has been established with six Republics including Russia.

Since Pakistan is particularly trying to infiltrate into these Islamic Republics and trying to create misunderstanding about India, I want to know, what specific action the Government of India, is trying to take to combat it and to establish our tested friendship with the erstwhile Soviet Union? What is the result or reaction of the visit of the Kazakhstan President to India?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Sir, we are interested in relation with each and every one of the republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union. But the Hon. Member is right, in view of the historical context, in view of the geographical position, we will be particularly interested and keen in having close relationship with the Central Asian Republics.

I am happy to say and the House is aware that even before the proposed new Union Treaty was to be signed, much before the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the first visit of the President of Uzbekistan made outside Uzbekistan was India. It shows the

interest of those countries in India. At this point of time, as of today, our Minister of State for Civil Supplies is in Azerbaijan. He will open our mission there; he will sign a series of agreements. So, we will have a very close relationship with them. We always have it. We maintain it.

In the course of the next few months, we expect practically all the heads of States or Governments of the Central Asian Republics visit here and therefore to formalise and finalise the relationship in all the spheres of activity which are of mutual interest.

As far as the visit of President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nazarbayev is concerned, he has signed a very comprehensive agreement here with our own Prim Minister. I am happy to say that from all accounts, it was a very successful visit.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Apart from Pakistan, countries such as Iran, Turkey and Saudi Arabia have been exerting themselves to have contact with these Republics. If necessary, we India should develop our contact not only on Government-to-Government level but also on people-to-people level by effectively utilising the historical and cultural links which we have with these Republics. But the Hon. Minister has replied...

MR. SPEAKER: Please put the question. There are many Hon. Members who want to ask questions. Come to the question please, without any preamble.

SHRI E. AHAMED: That is right. I would like to know what measures or steps that this Government propose to take to establish cultural relationship based on historic and cultural links that India has with these Republics and may I know whether the Government will spell out the policy they propose to take on this matter?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : As in the case of the Central Asian Republics, so in the case of every country, in addition to Government to Government contact, people

to people contacts are very much welcome and, in fact, they are very much necessary. In this context, we encourage people to people contact as far as our relations with Central Asian Republics are concerned.

I am happy to inform the House, through you, that very recently a delegation of non-officials consisting of Members of this House and, in fact, led by a very senior Member who was also a former Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs visited Central Asian Republics and that is just an indication of the process of encouragement by this Government of people to people contact.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: May I know, through you, from the Hon. Minister of External Affairs whether he is aware, while trying to establish contacts with the Mission, of the very sad plight of the Indian students who are in these Republics? If so, what steps are being taken to rescue them and to bring them back within the limit of funds which they can bear?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a little off the mark but the Hon. Minister will reply.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Many students are suffering it is a very serious affair.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: It is true it is a bit away from the question and I may say here that we are aware that there are 4,000 Indian students in the Soviet Union. Most of them, the vast majority of them, have gone there, not through the Government, but through private organisations and foundations and so on. They are in great difficulties now.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Are they in large number?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Out of 4,000 may be 100 under Government or officials sponsored schemes. That much. They are in difficulties there, in view of the problem in the Soviet Union. What we have

done is, for their maintenance there, we have permitted an allowance of 50 dollars per month which is quite sufficient in the present situation in the Soviet Union because they are paying in rouble. They have to deposit equivalent rupees in India by their parents. As far as their coming back is concerned, if they want to come back, they are welcome. Even for their holidays, we have allowed PTA from the parents to be paid in rupees. (Interruptions) We have done all these things. We are monitoring fully. We are taking care in every respect. Any other suggestions for the welfare of our people there will be welcome.

[Translation], 5

SHRI RAEI RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister about the thing people are very much concerned is that so far USSR used to exercise its veto power in favour of India in Security Council whenever Kashmir issue was raised, whether the Government has discussed the issue with the republics with which our relations have been established after the dissolution of Russia.

(b) Secondly, I would like to submit something in regard to defence. We are concerned about the provision of energy to 'Mig' aeroplanes. Which are the republics with which the matter has been discussed and what has been the outcome thereof?

[English]

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: As the House is aware, early this month there was the first summit level meeting of Security Council ever in the history of Security Council. On that occasion, opportunity was availed of, for a meeting between our Prime Minister and President Yeltsin. President Yeltsin categorically asserted that the old position of the erstwhile Soviet Union which is a consistent position, remains as far as Kashmir issue is concerned.

As for the questions of Defence and thereof, I am sure the Defence Minister will

be in a far better position to answer.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: While replying to the question, there is a mention about new agreements and trade agreements. But I would like to know what happened to the agreements which were entered into with the erstwhile Soviet Union. What happened to those trade agreements?

MR. SPEAKER: That part of the question has been replied. He has already replied to that. I think the Minister has already replied to that. He has referred to the talk between our Prime Minister and Mr. Yeltsin.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, although I am happy to learn that our Hon. External Affairs Minister has taken some steps to lodge our Indian students in the Office of the Ambassador in Moscow, yesterday I received some call...

MR. SPEAKER: That is disallowed.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: This is my supplementary. It is not a welcoming feature to bring them back like this.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot do like this. Please come to the point.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: If they bring them back, they should be provided some seats in our Medical Colleges.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already replied to that. Your question is disallowed. Now, we take up the next question No. 44

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: This is an important question. It concerns the life of 40000 students.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please help him later. Other questions are equally important.

(Interruptions)