

of Government of Maharashtra. The Central Government can take a view in the matter only after Government of Maharashtra finalises its stand.

Prices of Drugs.

171. SHRI ANNA JOSHI :
DR. SHRIMATI K.S. SOUNDARAM :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the leading drug companies are selling their Doxycycline formulations without any price approval and if so, the price being charged by them together with price fixed by the Government and since when;

(b) the manners in which these companies have been defying Government rules and the steps being taken to enforce the price; and

(c) whether M/s. U.S. Vitamins are selling multivitamin and other formulations without any price approval, if so, the details thereof and the action being taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) From the information obtained so far, violation of the provision of the DPCO '95, pertaining to prices is noticed in respect of two formulations viz. Vitamin A 2 ml injection and Glynase tabs 10's. This is being examined.

[*Translation*]

Prime Minister's Visits Abroad

172. SHRI RAM BADAN :
SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA :
SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI SHAILENDRA MAHTO :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the countries visited by the Prime Minister during the

period from April 1995 to till date;

(b) the expenditure incurred on these visits,

(c) the issues discussed and the outcome of the each visit;

(d) the salient features of the agreements signed during each of the above visits;

(e) the follow-up steps being taken for the implementation of these agreements; and

(f) the likely benefits to India in terms of enhancement of trade due to these visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) The Prime Minister visited Maldives (April 15-16, 1995), France (June 11-15, 1995), Malaysia (August 2-5, 1995), Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan (September 19-23, 1995), Egypt, Colombia and New York (October 15-26, 1995) and Burkina Faso, Argentina and Accra (November 2-10, 1995) since April 1, 1995.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (f). The information is as per the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

MALDIVES

The Prime Minister visited Maldives to inaugurate Indira Gandhi memorial Hospital which is a gift of the Government of India to the Government of Maldives. He had meetings with Maldivian Foreign Minister, Health Minister and the Maldivian President. The discussions focussed around the hospital, its future functioning and assistance needed in terms of manpower and equipment for its smooth operation. SAARC, NAM and bilateral issues of mutual interest such as prevention of drug trafficking were touched upon. Discussions were also held on expediting information from Maldives on the question of two imprisoned Maldivian nationals as well as problems of third country poaching in territorial waters of each country.

No agreements were signed during the visit.

FRANCE

Bilateral talks with French leadership were held and

Prime Minister delivered first in a series of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lectures at UNESCO, commemorating 125th birth anniversary of Gandhiji. Prime Minister met President Chirac, Prime Minister Juppe, Foreign Minister Charette, Minister for High Education and Research Bayrou, Minister of Economy and Finance Madelin, and UDF leader Giscard d'Estaing.

The two sides were in agreement on need to strengthen bilateral relations, in particular economic and commercial. The two sides called for early conclusion of a Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement, noted that some long pending commercial issue had been resolved and hoped that remaining disputes like HBJ pipeline could be resolved early. France reiterated its support for bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan on Jammu and Kashmir and welcomed India's policy of transparency. Talks also covered wide range of international and regional issues. Views were exchanged on problems faced by the two countries from terrorism and extremism. Discussions were also held on world economic scene. On UN reform Prime Minister underlined India's legitimate claim to a permanent Security Council seat.

No agreement were signed during the visit.

The visit is expected to lead to an intensification of Indo-French relations, in particular economic and commercial. Prime Minister Juppe's call to French business and industry to shed inhibitions and increase their presence in the Indian market are expected to bring a substantive change to bilateral and commercial relations.

MALAYSIA

Matters of mutual interest including bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed. The visit led to a better understanding of each other's perceptions and concerns and is also expected to give stimulus to bilateral economic cooperation.

Five agreements were signed during the visit.

- (i) MOU on Cooperation in the development of Highways - to deal with formulation of strategy for planning, development and implementation of Super national Highway project in India.
- (ii) Agreement on Promotion and Protection of investment to create favourable conditions for investment in each other's country and to protect investments.
- (iii) Agreement for provision of Technical Training and

Consultancy services to provide technical training and technical consultancy service to Malaysia in the field of space science, particularly satellite programmes, as well as to assist over all development of Malaysia's Space Science Programme.

- (iv) MOU between Doordarshan and MEASAT Broadcast Network System-for collaboration to jointly develop quality new programmes, produce a premium channel of Indian programmes and to market an encrypted Direct to User satellite broadcasting service in India.
- (v) MOU between confederation of Indian Industries and Malaysian Industrial Development Authority - to assist in promotion and development of industrial cooperation and overseas investment between the two countries.

Addressing large gathering of top businessmen from Malaysia, Prim Minister gave a presentation of opportunities now available for enhanced trade and economic activities between the two countries. The visit is expected to boost trade between the two countries.

TURKMENISTAN

During discussions, common values of secularism, tolerance and democracy were stressed as well as to actively encourage business contacts and economic cooperation. The two sides shared their regional, political and security perspectives. President of Turkmenistan was supportive of India's approaches on Kashmir and permanent membership of Security Council. The visit helped in consolidating contacts and in the strengthening the framework of our relations.

Four agreements were signed during the visit;

- (i) Agreement to extend a second credit line of US \$10 million- provides for extension of Credit to Turkmenistan Government.
- (ii) Agreement on establishment of Joint commission - defines the scope of its functioning and the frequency of its sessions for trade, economic scientific and technological cooperation.
- (iii) Agreement on bilateral investment protection - secures investment in both countries against nationalisation or expropriation in any manner except for a public purpose, in accordance with

law, on a non discriminatory basis and against fair and equitable compensation.

- (iv) Agreement on Cultural Exchange Programme Provides cooperation in the spheres of culture, arts, education, mass-media and sports. This agreement, which was signed in April 1992, has been extended for a further period of two years, i.e. 1995-96.

A Memorandum on Trilateral meeting between delegations of Turkmenistan, India and Iran was also signed after a meeting between the Foreign Ministers of the three countries.

Follow up action is being carried out through diplomatic channels. A high-level inter-ministerial meeting on 21st November was chaired by Minister of State, Shri Salman Khurshid, who will monitor implementation of various understandings arrived at during the visit.

India is expected to benefit significantly from interaction at Summit level between the two countries. Turkmenistan is rich in mineral including hydro-carbon resources.

KYRGHYZSTAN

Discussions were held on economic cooperation, training of Kyrgyz personnel, cooperation in small scale industries, light industries and pharmaceuticals, including bilateral relations. Two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in the fields mentioned above. Kyrgyzstan was supportive of India's perceptives on Kashmir, restructuring of UN, including India's candidature for permanent membership of UN Security Council.

Three agreements were signed during the visit:

- (i) Agreement on cooperation in Tourism - aims to promote tourism between the two countries through cooperation between firms and organisations, dissemination of tourism-related information exploration of possibilities for construction and management of hotels and training of personnel.
- (ii) Agreement on Scientific and Technological cooperation - aims at promoting cooperation in this sector including sharing of experience of scientists and other specialists and includes holding of seminars as well as joint programmes and joint ventures.
- (iii) A protocol on extension of Indo-Kyrgyz Cultural

Exchange Programme was signed. The Bilateral Cultural Exchange Programme in the spheres of culture, arts, education, mass-media, tourism and sport which was signed in March 1992, has been extended for three years i.e. 1995, 1996 and 1997.

Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Commission met in New Delhi in October 1995. Minister of State Shri Salman Khurshid chaired high-level inter-ministerial meeting on 21st November, 1995 to follow up on Prime Minister's visit.

As a result of the visit, economic cooperation with Kyrgyzstan is expected to increase significantly.

EGYPT

Prime Minister had a one-to-one meeting with President Mubarak and delegations from meeting with Egyptian Prime Minister. The Secretary General of Arab League called on Prime Minister. Prime Minister also had meeting with Egyptian intellectuals.

During the meetings, bilateral and international matters of mutual interest were discussed including ways and means to enhance cooperation in trade, economy, science and technology, regional issues relating to South Asia, Middle East, New challenges before international community such as terrorism and strengthening of NAM. The visit gave stimulus to all aspects of bilateral relations and better understanding in both countries of each other's perception on bilateral, regional and international issues.

Three agreements were signed during the visit :

- (i) Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology - includes implementation of joint research and development projects, organisation of and participation in scientific conferences, workshops, exhibitions, mutual use of research and development facilities and scientific equipment, organisation of joint scientific meeting.
- (ii) Agreement on combating all forms of criminal acts, particularly terrorist, transnational and organised crimes will enable both countries to exchange information, experiences and techniques in combating these crimes.
- (iii) Agreement on cooperation in the sphere of information - is designed to encourage dissemination of news and information of each other's country among their citizens through press,

news agencies and other information media. Implementation of this agreement is expected to take several forms including exchange of information, scientific research books, exchange of press reporters and photographers experts and trainees and publicity material.

Follow up action will be taken by the concerned Ministries and organisations as necessary.

The visit will give stimulus to trade and other aspects of economic cooperation between the two countries. Meeting of next Inter-Governmental Joint Commission is likely to be held in February 1996 in New Delhi. A business delegation from Egypt will visit India at the same time. Cooperation in small scale industry may lead to establishment of joint ventures and export of material equipment and technology. Steps are expected to be taken to export items like foodgrains.

COLOMBIA

The Prime Minister visited Colombia to attend 11th Conference of Heads of State/Government of NAM. The Summit focussed continuing relevance and role of NAM in changed international situation and NAM's priorities, goals and responses to new challenges. The question of UN reforms, international security and disarmament, development, human rights, social issues and South-South Cooperation were debated extensively during the Summit. Prime Minister's address set the tone for discussion on issues of interest to India including nuclear disarmament and elimination of nuclear weapons and economic and social issues. The Indian delegation played a key role in evolving a consensus on crucial areas and ensuring that India's concerns were fully reflected in the documents adopted by the summit.

Since the visit was not bilateral, no agreements were signed.

NEW YORK

The Prime Minister visited New York to attend Special Commemorative Meeting to mark United Nations 50th Anniversary. Prime Minister's address highlighted India's priorities and vision of the future role of United Nations. India played a crucial role in the drafting of the declaration, in evolving a consensus on the many contentious issues and in ensuring that the concerns of developing countries were fully reflected in the consensus text. The salient features of the declaration include-a recommitment of UN to greater service of humankind, particularly those who are suffering and deeply deprived, reaffirmation of the purposes and principles

of UN Charter and an expression of the determination that the UN of the future will work with renewed vigour and effectiveness in promoting peace, development, equality and justice. The declaration also supports UN regional and national efforts on arms control, limitation, disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, including biological, chemical weapons, etc. The declaration recognises important role the UN can play in promoting economic & social development. The declaration calls for revitalisation of the General Assembly and states that Security Council must be expanded.

BURKINA FASO

Discussions were held on bilateral, regional and global issues. Burkina Faso expressed support for India's stand on resolution of Kashmir issue through bilateral negotiations with Pakistan under Shimla Agreement. It supported India's candidature for permanent membership of security council and for non-permanent membership for the period 1997-98. Indian assistance was offered in the fields of agriculture, small scale industries, railways, health care and irrigation to Burkina Faso.

A trade agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding on the Sahel Railway Project were signed during the visit.

Government is in consultation with the Government of Burkina Faso with a view to strengthen and expand ongoing areas of cooperation and identifying new areas in pursuance of the agreements concluded during the visit.

The visit is expected to open up opportunities for greater commercial exchanges and may lead to greater participation by Indian public and private sectors in the projects in Burkina Faso. The visit contributed in reiterating India's continued interest in countries in Africa in their political and economic stability and progress.

ARGENTINA

The Prime Minister visited Argentina to attend 5th Summit of the Summit Level Group for South-South Consultation and Cooperation. The salient feature of the Summit was the adoption of terms of reference of the G-15 Committee on Investment, Trade and Technology, which is to work out arrangements for trade and investment facilitation, promotion and liberalisation as well as for stimulating transfer of technology among G-15 committee will be held in Zimbabwe in March 1996 in which India will actively participate to ensure success of this initiative.

On terrorism, the Concluding Statement records that "We

agree that all possible efforts are necessary to meet the challenge of terrorism and towards this end, G-15 consultations, as necessary, would be held from time to time in order to reinforce ongoing international efforts to combat terrorism".

Since the visit was not bilateral, no agreements were signed.

ACCRA

During Prime Minister's visit, bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest were discussed. Indian assistance was offered in the fields of agriculture, small scale industries, tourism, telecommunication and transport to Ghana.

Text of an agreement on setting up a joint commission with Ghana was initialled.

Consultations are going on with a view to strengthen and expand areas of cooperation and to identify new areas as a follow up of the agreement concluded during the visit.

The initialling of the agreement on the setting up of a Joint Commission is likely to open up opportunities for greater commercial exchanges between the two countries and may lead to greater public and private sector participation in projects in Ghana. The visit contributed in reiterating India's interest in Africa in their political and economic stability and progress and consolidating interests of developing countries on major global issues in the UN, its agencies, and other international fora.

[English]

Permanent Membership to India in UN Security Council

173. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL :
SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the question of expansion of UN Security Council (UNSC) was discussed during the recent UN session;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the chances of India's candidature for the UNSC in

case of its expansion;

(d) whether India have staked its claim/lobbied to become a permanent member of UNSC during the recent session of the UN;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved thereby;

(f) the countries that supported India's case for permanent membership;

(g) whether any countries voiced their opposition/created hindrances for India's permanent membership; and

(h) if so, details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The question of expansion of UN Security Council (UNSC) was discussed during the current UNGA session. These discussions will continue in the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) of the UN General Assembly, which is to submit any agreed recommendations by the end of 50th UNGA session in September 1996. It is pre-mature to speculate on the out come. However, there is growing support for the idea that Non-Aligned and developing countries be included in both permanent and non-permanent member's category of the expanded UN Security council.

(d) to (f). Yes, Sir. India has expressed its willingness to serve as permanent member of the Security Council. We have indicated that the expansion of the Security Council should be based on objective criteria. Mauritius, Bhutan, Domini can Republic and Cuba have openly supported at the UN India's candidature for permanent membership.

(g) and (h). Discussions on Security Council expansion in the Open Ended Working Group have not so far focussed on candidature of specific countries. However, Pakistan has tried to create a hindrance by stating that the permanent membership of the Security Council does not need enlargement. India has called for expansion of both permanent and non-permanent member's category, for which there is broad support.

Women in Fishing Industries

174. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :