

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom;

(e) whether Iran put forward any proposal for industrial projects in India; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Iranian delegation led by Foreign Minister Velayti exchanged views with Indian leaders on a wide range of bilateral issues, covering economic and cultural exchanges as well as consular matters. The two sides also reviewed the regional and international situation. They agreed to enhance cooperation, both bilaterally and in international fora.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Indian companies have shown interest in participating in projects in Iran including Kerman Thermal Power Station, Bandarabbas-Batq Electrification Project, Tehran Metro Workshop, and Khuzestan Sugar Mills. Negotiations between Indian companies and their Iranian counterparts are under way in this regard.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. Iran has proposed the establishment of a natural gas pipeline to India.

[*Translation*]

Financial Assistance for Growth of Fishery

2788. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any package regarding financial assistance for the growth of fishery is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c). There is no package under consideration of the Government regarding financial assistance for the growth of deep sea fishing. However, certain schemes for financial assistance for the development of the inland and coastal fisheries sector, are under consideration of the Government for implementation during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

[*English*]

Benefits of Reservation

2789. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI SOBHANADREE-SWARA RAO VADDE:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to give benefits of reservation to the Scheduled Castes who have adopted Christianity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c). The matter is under active consideration.

Improvement of Slums in Delhi

2791. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: