

(c) Government have initiated action to set up three Regional Drug Testing Laboratories at Chandigarh, Hyderabad & Guwahati. The proposals are at various stages of land acquisition and preparation of designs.

#### Construction of Bridges over National Highways

1779. SHRI RATI LAL VARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bridges constructed on the National Highways in Gujarat during 1992-93;

(b) the number of bridges repaired during the last three years on the National Highways in Gujarat; and

(c) the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) 4 bridges have been completed on the National Highways in Gujarat during 1992-93.

(b) 9 bridges.

(c) An amount of Rs. 212 lakh has been released therefor.

[English]

#### Visit of Chinese Vice Premier

1780. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:

SHRI K. PRADHANI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chinese Vice-Premier and foreign Minister visited India recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed during the visit and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any agreements signed during the visit;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any discussion held in regard to the implementation of the agreement on maintenance of Peace and tranquility along the line of Actual control;

(f) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(g) whether the Government showed their concern about supply of Chinese arms to Pakistan; and

(h) if so, the response of Chinese foreign Minister thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) to (h) Chinese Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister, Qian Qichen visited India from July 17—19, 1994. During the visit the two sides discussed a wide range of issues, including improvement and consolidation of bilateral relations, the international situation and India-China

cooperation in multilateral and other fora. During the discussions the two sides stressed the importance of Border Peace and Tranquility Agreement and agreed to work towards turning India-China border areas into areas of friendship and to open further points for border trade between the two countries. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the progress and forward movement in bilateral relations and felt that this process should continue while differences are gradually resolved.

An Agreement on Avoidance on Double Taxation was signed during the visit. The Agreement is expected to facilitate investment and technology flow between India and China. The development of economic and trade linkages with China will contribute meaningfully to the improvement of bilateral relations.

The Government's concern about sale of Chinese arms to Pakistan was reiterated during the discussions. The Chinese Foreign Minister was of the view that the sale of Chinese arms would not undermine peace and stability in any region of the world.

[Translation]

#### Amendment to National Highway Act

1781. DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the National Highway Act;

(b) if so, the salient features of this amendment; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The Government has been contemplating Private Sector participation in Highway Sector on BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) basis and amendment to the National Highway Act, 1956 to enable such participation.

[English]

#### Milk Powder

1782. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of milk powder producing plants in Gujarat State;

(b) the production and consumption of milk powder and its demand during the last three years in the State year-wise; and

(c) the quantity of milk powder sent to other States from Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c) In Gujarat, all the eight milk powder producing plants are in the cooperative sector and as per the information furnished by the National Dairy Development Board, the estimated production of milk powders including infant milk food, baby food, etc., in the State of Gujarat during the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 were approximately 64,668 MT, 74,720 MT and