

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b). Pakistan-India People' Forum for Peace and Democracy, a non-governmental body, organised an informal India-Pakistan meet on 24-25 February, 1995 at New Delhi. According to information available ninety six Pakistani nationals participated in the event. The conference issued a statement on Indo-Pak relations.

(c) Government are of the view that people-to-people contacts would promote goodwill and understanding between India and Pakistan.

[Translation]

Civic Facilities in Towns

3081. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government and Housing and Urban Development Corporation have sanctioned some schemes to provide better civic and other facilities in small and medium towns in various states;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the names of the projects stated under this scheme particularly in Vadodara, Bharuch and Panch Mahal Districts of Gujarat;

(d) the amount earmarked for this purpose; and

(e) the amount spent in Gujarat under this head during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b). Provision of civic amenities is the responsibility of the local bodies concerned. These local bodies formulate their schemes in consultation with the State Governments concerned. State Governments on their part render assistance to the local bodies under various schemes and also through borrowing from financial institutions like HUDCO, LIC, etc. Government of India plays only a nodal and catalytic role.

However, since 1979-80, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) has been in operation in States and UTs. The Scheme of IDSMT aims at improving the physical and economic infrastructure and other essential facilities and services in towns having population upto 3 lakhs. From the inception of the Scheme till date, 749 towns in various States and UTs have been covered under IDSMT and a sum of Rs. 230.17 crores released. The schemes covered include markets and shopping complexes, roads, drainage works, sites and services, bus stands and other infrastructural facilities.

(c) to (e). The names of the towns in these three districts which have so far been covered under IDSMT and the Central Assistance released are given below:

Name of the Town	District	Central Assistance (Rs. in lakhs)
Dhaboi	Vadodara	13.50
Padra	-do-	36.00
Bharuch	Bharuch	24.00
Ankleshwar	-do-	38.34
Dahod	Panchamal	39.95
Godhra	-do-	40.00

During 1994-95, Central Assistance of Rs. 1.50 crore has been released to the Government of Gujarat. The expenditure incurred under IDSMT by the State Government upto December, 1993, for which information is available, is Rs. 17.38 crores.

[English]

India-Bangladesh Border

3082. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to settle the boundary disputes between India and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government have been engaged in a dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh on a continuing basis to settle the boundary disputes between the two countries under the Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, 1974. Such issues were most recently discussed at the Indo-Bangladesh Survey Talks at Dhaka from November 21-23, 1994.

(c) Some legal, constitutional and administrative pre-requisites are on the anvil. The concerned agencies of the Central and relevant State Government are seized of the requisite formalities for their completion.

[Translation]

Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act

3083. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :
SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring forward comprehensive amendments to the Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed amendments; and

(c) the time by which the amendments are likely to be brought forward before the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (c). The Government is considering various options in regard to Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act, 1976. As no final decision has been taken so far. It is difficult to predict a time-frame for decision in the matter because of the complex procedure involved.

[English]

Steel Production

3084. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total finished steel production during the first eight months of the current fiscal year;

(b) whether the steel production has gone down against the estimate plan-set up during the said period;

(c) whether the demand for steel continues to decline and apparent consumption of the steel during the first months of current financial year has been fallen as compared to the last year;

(d) whether some of the steel plants in the country are unable to meet targets; and

(e) the main factors responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). The total production of finished steel during April-November, 1994 was 10.86 million tonnes showing an increase of 10.6% over the corresponding period last year. However, the production was 7% less than the plan for the same period.

(c) Demand for steel has increased during 1994-95 as compared to the previous year. Apparent consumption of finished steel during the first eight months i.e. April-November, 1994 increased by 13% over the corresponding period of the previous year.

(d) and (e). Among the integrated steel plants, only Durgapur Steel Plant of SAIL and Visakhapatnam Steel Plant could not achieve their production target of saleable steel in 1994-95 due to the following reasons:

(i) Delay in commissioning of Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF) Shop at Durgapur under modernisation programme.

(ii) Poor and fluctuating quality of indigenous cooking coal.

(iii) Problems faced by Visakhapatnam Steel Plant in the stabilisation of production in the Steel Melt Shop and continuous Casting Machines owing to certain unanticipated logistics problems; skill gaps, inadequate automation and requirement of additional facilities subsequent to commencement of operation.

Implementation of CRF

3085. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has been persistently representing about the inadequacy of the share of Central Road Fund (CRF) in meeting the requirement of National Highways in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

Human Rights Commission Meetings in Geneva

3086. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the composition of Indian Delegation to the UN Commission on Human Rights Meetings being held in Geneva;

(b) whether the representatives of any Non-Governmental Organisation have been included in the Delegation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and their contribution to the discussions held there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (c). A statement giving composition of the Indian delegation is enclosed. This includes Ministers of Government, officials and persons prominent in public life. All members of the delegation made an excellent contribution to the deliberations of the UN Commission on Human Rights in projecting India's perspective.

STATEMENT

Composition of the Indian Delegation

Ministers of Government:

1. Dr. Manmohan Singh, Finance Minister
2. Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister for Civil Aviation
3. Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State for External Affairs
4. Shri Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi, Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office

Officials

1. Shri Satish Chandra, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Geneva
2. Ms. Savitri Kunadi, Joint Secretary (UN Economic), Ministry of External Affairs
3. Shri Dinkar Prakash Srivastava, Director (UN Political), Ministry of External Affairs