

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks held with the Nepalese delegation;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached in regard to trade and transit relations between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K.GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Detailed official-level discussion were held in New Delhi between the Nepalese delegation, led by Foreign Secretary N.B. Shah and the Indian delegation led by Foreign Secretary S.K. Singh on February 20-22, 1990. The subjects discussed included trade, transit, economic cooperation, security perceptions, Nepal's Zone of Peace proposal, treatment of each other's nationals, cooperation in the fields of industry and water resources, etc. Progress was achieved toward a comprehensive solution of all outstanding issues between the two countries. It was decided that at the next

round of official talks, work would begin on documents which will constitute the basic framework for putting the age-old Indo-Nepal relationship on a firmer and enduring basis. Such a comprehensive framework will naturally cover trade and transit issues also.

Inter-State Councils

1606. SHRI D. AMAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to form Inter-State Councils under Article 263 of the Constitution of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) and (b). The Government have decided that an Inter-State Council under the provisions of Article 263 of the Constitution, may be set-up. The Inter-State Council would consist of:

(a) Prime Minister	Chairman
(b) All Chief Ministers of States	Members.
(c) Chief Minister of Union Territories with Legislature and Lt. Governors of Union Territories without Legislature.	Members.
(d) Six Union Cabinet Minister with other Ministers to be invited as and when any item relating to a subject under their charge is to be discussed.	Members.

The Inter-State Council would be charged with duties set-out in clauses (b) and (c) of Article 263, other than socio-economic planning and development. In addition, the Council may also deliberate upon matters of interest to the States referred by the Chairman to the Council.

Babri Masjid-Ram Janm Bhoomi Dispute

1607. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have appointed a Panel to study the modalities of resolving Ram Janm Bhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute; and

(b) if so, the details regarding its composition and terms of reference?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) and (b). On 15.2.1990, the Central Government constituted a Committee comprising Prof. Madhu Dandavate, Union Finance Minister, Shri George Fernandes, Union Railway Minister and Shri Mukhtar Anis, Health Minister of Government of Uttar Pradesh to hold consultations with the various groups to find an amicable solution to this issue.

[*Translation*]

Opening of Post Offices in All Gram Panchayat

1608. SHRIHARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals to open sub-post offices in all gram Panchayats and to provide telephone facilities in all development block in the country; and

(b) if so, the time by which the proposals

will be finalised and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). While there is no proposal to open Sub Post Offices in all gram panchayats, there are proposals to provide telephone facilities in all development blocks by the end of the Eighth Plan period.

[*English*]

Amount Spent on Drought Prone Areas

1609. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money spent on drought prone areas in various States during the year 1989-90 as far, State-wise; and

(b) the amount proposed to be spent during 1990-91?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b). Expenditure incurred under the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) in various States during 1989-90 (upto December 1989) and outlay proposed for the programme for 1990-91 are given below:

<i>State</i>	<i>*Expenditure incurred under the programme during 1989-90 (upto Dec. 1989)</i>	<i>*Outlay proposed for the programme for 1990-91.</i>
	<i>(Rs. in Lakhs)</i>	<i>(Rs. in Lakhs)</i>
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	792.25	1203.00
Bihar	570.66	828.00