

tively after assessing the situation.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this a very important question. Terrorism is on the rise in the Terai region of Uttar Pradesh. The last two Governments in the State had sought additional security forces and modern weapons from the centre to combat the terrorist activity. may I know as to what steps have been taken by the Central Government to fulfil the demands made by last two State Governments so as to check the terrorists activity the Terai region of Uttar Pradesh?

[*English*]

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Sir, for the State of Uttar Pradesh, as per the norms prescribed for the modernisation of the police force, we have given Rs. 224.20 lakhs. Besides that, to meet the situation as the hon. Member mentioned about the Terai region and other places of the terrorist violence and all that, an additional special grant of Rs. 10 cores is also given to that Government (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: The question should not have been asked in this manner Since you have asked it, you will be given the reply.

[*English*]

Gas from Bangladesh to West Bengal

*410. **SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring gas from Bangladesh to West Bengal for down stream use;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATU-

RAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No concrete proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE: Hon. Speaker, Sir, as no concrete proposal was mentioned in the answer, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that a considerable quantity of natural gas has been located in the area of Bangladesh adjoining Tripura. Bangladesh is brining this gas by pipeline to Dhaka. But Bangladesh does not have the capacity to absorb or to use such a huge quantity of gas within their country. At the same time there is a large scarcity of natural gas as well as any kind of fuel within our country. So far as I know, Bangladesh.

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't read it, you have to ask a question.

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE: I am asking the question.

MR. SPEAKER: If your question is too long and reply is not given, then you will not be happy.

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE: My question is very simple. So far as I know, Bangladesh is approaching the Government of India in this matter since a few months. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, may I know from the hon. Minister whether or not at any time in the bilateral discussion between Bangladesh and India or during the discussion in SAARC the question of bringing up natural gas through pipeline either *via* Bangladesh or from Bangladesh to West Bengal was taken up.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, Bangladesh is producing 15 million cubic metres per day of gas as of now, as far as the information available to is goes and that country is fully utilising that gas and it does not have any surplus at the moment.

As regards the proposal for importing

Bangladesh gas into India, there has not been any approach or proposal by the Bangladesh Government as such, but an exploration oil company called Scimitar had made a proposal to India suggesting that they will be able to give 8 million to 10 million cubic metres per day of gas. They wanted the Government of India's response. Several discussions had taken place at official level from time to time the hon. Member would also agree that this is related to political, economic and foreign policy issues. There had been times during the last five or six years when the proposal was dormant, but at the moment, the reaction we get is that the Bangladesh Government have an open mind on this issue. We have asked GAIL to collect the statistics and deal with this company, but they have not answered us for the last one-and-a-half years. I may also state that most of the gas produced in Bangladesh is in the north eastern region of that country and in order to take it to India or anywhere, they have to cross the Jamuna river which requires large investment and there are several other problems in relation to investment. So, suggestion is in a very preliminary stage and that is why we said that there is no concrete proposal with us.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE: Sir, the hon. Minister's reply is satisfactory to some extent. May I know the time by which negotiations would be completed?

[*English*]

SHRI S. KRISHANA KUMAR: No negotiations, as such, are taking place with the Government of Bangladesh. As I stated earlier, the Government of Bangladesh had not made any proposal, it was only in between the companies, but when some dignitaries from Bangladesh including the prime Minister and Ministry of State visit India in the foreseeable future suggestion could also probably be raised.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that it has since been clarified that the matter remained dormant

for a while, because when the Minister said that the matter was *under consideration* I had wanted to point out that it has been under consideration since the 16th December, 1971, when we helped in the liberation of Bangladesh. Since it is now clear after 21 years that it is probably not going to be all feasible to expect Bangladesh to supply natural gas as natural gas to India, would the Government of India be prepared to approach the Government of Bangladesh to establish joint ventures in Bangladesh with buy-back arrangements for products that are produced out of the natural gas in Bangladesh so that their natural gas could be utilised in Bangladesh for the production of products?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): The talks for obtaining natural gas from Bangladesh are going on since 1980, as a matter of fact. Even though these talks are going on at various diplomatic levels, as we said earlier in the main answer to the question, no concrete proposals have yet been received from Bangladesh. The suggestion that the hon. Member has made with regard to the other part, I should say that it is a suggestion for action.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA: Sir, in order to fulfil future requirements of gas, a proposal is being considered to import natural gas from Bangladesh. But there are several areas in our country which have gas reserves... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This question relates to import of gas from Bangladesh.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA: Sir, gas worth several crores rupees extracted from gas reserves in Gujarat is being flared up. Does the Government have any scheme to check such wastage of gas?

[*English*]

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, India produces 48 million cubic metres of gas per

day at the moment, there are various schemes for enhancing the production of gas and 25 per cent of the gas is being flared due to lack of infrastructure. We have a scheme for reducing the flaring to zero by 1994-95 through a World bank aided project of Rs. 7,200/- crores.

Foodgrain Production

*411. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of increase in foodgrain production in the country during the Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plan periods, respectively;

(b) whether there has been a decline in the rate of growth of foodgrain production in the Seventh Five Year Plan compared to the Sixth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The trend value of index number of foodgrains production during 1970-80 was estimated as 132.0 as against the actual level of 114.8 due to drought, with triennium ending 1969-70 as base 100. The index numbers of foodgrains production which were 154.3 and 183.4 in 1984-85 and 1989-90 respectively showed that ignoring the effect of drought, the percentage increase in index of foodgrains production during the Sixth and Seventh

Plan periods was estimated as 16.89 and 18.86 respectively.

(b) No, Sir. Based on trend value of production for 1979-80 as base, the compound growth rates of production of foodgrains, on point to point basis of index numbers, during Sixth and Seventh Plan periods were estimated at 3.17 and 3.51 per cent per annum respectively.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Sir, the trend of index number as stated by the hon. Minister in his reply shows that the growth rate of foodgrains production has increased. In view of this, may I know from the hon. Minister what are the peak production years in the Sixth and the Seventh plan periods and what is the percentage of growth rate of foodgrains production during the peak year of the Sixth Plan and that of the Seventh Plan periods?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BAL RAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Fifth Plan period the average annual production in million tonnes was 118 and the peak level of production was 131.9 million tonnes. In the Sixth Plan, the annual production was 138.06 million tonnes and the peak level of production was 152.37 million tonnes. In the Seventh Plan, the annual production was 155.10 million tonnes and the peak level of production was 171.04 million tonnes.

The growth rate of foodgrains production was as follows:

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|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1949-50 to 1964-65 | 2.93% per annum |
| 1967-68 to 1978-79 | 2.77% per annum |
| 1967-68 to 1984-85 | 2.68% per annum |
| 1967-68 to 1989-90 | 2.74% per annum |

MR. SPEAKER: In which year, there was peak production which was achieved?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I will give you

later on. I will give it later.

SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: The country requires 240 million tonnes of foodgrains to