

Exhibition held at Johannesburg in August 1994 and the projection of its achievements in the exhibition evinced a lot of interest on the South African side. This was followed up by the visit of Director General, Department of Housing, South Africa who sought HUDCO's assistance to the South African Govt.'s programme of providing one million houses in the 5 year period, 1994—99. Subsequently, a Memorandum of Understanding was executed between Director General, Deptt. of Housing, South Africa and CMD, HUDCO on 13.12.94 in which the areas of collaboration were identified. As provided in the MOU, HUDCO mission is presently visiting South Africa for identifying the specific action areas of cooperation between HUDCO and Department of Housing, South, Africa.

(c) and (d) The details of the Cooperation arrangement will depend on the outcome of the negotiations being conducted by the HUDCO Mission.

Assistance provided to Gujarat

926. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide assistance to the fruit and vegetable based industries in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided during the last two years and proposed to be provided during the next financial year; and

(c) whether certain schemes regarding fruit and vegetable-based industries in Gujarat are pending with the Government for approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing various developmental plan schemes which seek to provide assistance for setting up of new/expansion/upgradation of fruit & vegetable processing units in various States including Gujarat. The following assistance has been provided to Gujarat during the years 1992-93 and 1993-94.

Year	Amount of assistance released	Purpose
1992-93	—	—
1993-94	Rs. 2.30 lakhs	For setting up of one Food Processing and Training Centre

Besides, an assistance of Rs. 6.00 lakhs has been provided to Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Ltd. Ahmedabad for setting up of 2 Food Processing and Training Centres in the State of Gujarat. As the proposal seeking assistance has to be mooted by the organisation in the States concerned, extent of assistance to be provided in the next financial year is not possible to be anticipated at present.

A proposal from Gujarat Agro Industries Corpn. Ltd., Ahmedabad seeking assistance for setting up of Agro

Parlours in the State of Gujarat and Rajasthan has been received during the current financial year 1994-95. Action has already been initiated on it.

[Translation]

Foreign and Indian Companies

927. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
DR. ASIM BALA:
SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Tele-communications has finalised its policy regarding entry of foreign and Indian Companies into the Telecom Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any security measures would be adopted when the private foreign companies will control the telephone system in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has invited tenders from registered Indian Companies for their participation in supplementing efforts of Department of Telecom. for provision of basic telephone services as envisaged in the objectives of National Telecom. Policy 94 announced in May, 94 guidelines for implementation thereof were issued in September 94. A bidder company participating in the tender process may be a joint venture with foreign companies subject to condition that foreign equity in the company does not exceed 49%.

(c) and (d) In the conditions of the tenders specific clauses have been included where all foreign personnel to be deployed by the licensee for installation operation and maintenance of the licensee's network shall be security cleared by the Govt. of India prior to their deployment. There is also a provision for taking over the service equipment and the networks of the licences in part or in whole of the service area in case of emergency or war or low intensity conflict or any other eventuality in public interest as declared by the Government of India.

[English]

Indian POWs in Pak Jails

928. SHRI S.P. YADAV:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:
MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA
KHANDURI:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian POWs in jails in Pakistan;

(b) the reasons for their non-release by Pakistan;

(c) whether there are about 700 other Indians including women still in Pak jails;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the efforts made/being made by the Government for the early release of Indian POWs and civilians from Pak jails?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) According to available information, 54 missing Indian defence personnel are believed to be in custody in Pakistan.

(b) Pakistan, unfortunately, has been maintaining that there are no such Indian defence personnel in its custody. It is regrettable that Pakistan has not yet responded positively to the numerous constructive proposals made by the Indian side over the years for resolving this humanitarian issue. Pakistan is yet to fulfil the specific commitment made by it at the Sixth Round of Foreign Secretary level talks in Delhi in August 1992 for entering into technical level consultations with India for resolving this long-standing issue to mutual satisfaction.

(c) and (d) According to available information, at present there are 1067 Indian civilian prisoners, including women, under detention in Pakistani jails.

(e) The question of the early release and repatriation of all Indian prisoners under detention in Pakistan has repeatedly been taken up with the Government of Pakistan. These efforts continue.

Urban Land Ceiling Act

929. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have received a demand for repeal of Urban Land Ceiling Act;

(b) if so, the reasons stated for the demand;

(c) whether the repeal of the Act is under consideration of the Government; and

(d) if so, since when and the reasons for not taking the decision thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir. There was a demand for repeal of the Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act, 1976 by State Governments.

(b) They wanted to frame their own Act to take into account their own Act to take into account their requirements and needs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The question does not arise.

Bally Vivekananda Bridge

930. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bally Vivekananda Bridge over Ganga in Calcutta is a security hazard; and

(b) if so, the effective steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Bally Vivekananda Bridge over Ganga in Calcutta is a rail cum road bridge, being maintained by the Railways. Some of the steel trough plates supporting the road deck have been found distressed and are being repaired/replaced for which necessary sanction has been accorded.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Indore in Basic Services Resources

931. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation for the inclusion of Indore in the Basic Services Resources Programme meant for urban poor; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) (a) No representation for inclusion of Indore under the Centrally sponsored Scheme of Urban Basic Services for the Poor has been received.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

[English]

Increase in Drug Prices

932. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the MINISTER FOR CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Concern at proposed price hike of drugs' appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated February 18, 1995; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The news item has been seen. There will be no impact of the TRIPS Agreement on the prices of the existing drugs in the market whether patented or non-patented. The impact of the TRIPS Agreement on the drugs, which will be patented after the coming in force of the TRIPS Agreement will depend on a number of factors, including the nature of the availability of the therapeutic equivalent substitute non-patented drugs in the market, licencing and marketing strategies adopted by the patent holders, including the option of the local