

(b) For development of Central State Farm, Aralam, the following proposals have been envisaged :

- (i) Irrigation project for basin and drip irrigation.
- (ii) Construction of check dams on the existing irrigation scheme.
- (iii) Construction of modern copra dryer including building, plant and machinery.
- (iv) Installation of fibre extraction unit.
- (v) Electricity expansion line from Block No. 11 to 13
- (vi) Construction of payments check post in Block No. 11 and 14.
- (vii) Renovation of existing residential and non-residential buildings.
- (viii) Construction of fruit processing unit, drying yard No. 5 and fisheries project in 4 hectare area.

(c) The allocation made for development of this farm during 1997-98 was as under :

	(Rs. in lakhs)
(i) Plantation	-- 154.00
(ii) Irrigation/Drainage	-- 15.00
(iii) Others	-- 8.00

Relations with Afghanistan

40. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to initiate a thorough reassessment of the Indian policy towards Afghanistan;

(b) if so, whether continuance of Afghan conflict has adverse security implication for India;

(c) whether the trade and economic cooperation with countries in this region have also been affected; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to improve the relations with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) Events in Afghanistan impinge on our national interests including our security concerns. The continuing civil conflict in that country has adversely affected on the peace, stability and economic and commercial development of the region of which India is a part.

Government is closely monitoring developments in Afghanistan and is in continuous touch with all the constituent members of the Government of Afghanistan headed by President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Foreign Policy

41. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any change in foreign policy is contemplated with the coming into being of the new Government;

(b) whether the Government proposes to adhere to the basic premises of Non-alignment doctrine enunciated by Late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The objectives of our foreign policy seek to preserve country's territorial integrity, security and national identity as a plural democratic and secular society ensuring socio-economic development of all the people with justice and equality. Independence of mind and autonomy of action as manifested in our abiding faith in the principle of Non-alignment has been the hallmark of our foreign policy as much with the first Indian Government headed by Late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru as with the present Government and no deviation is contemplated from these well articulated principles.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Mahakali Treaty

42. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed for construction of the Pancheshwar dam under the Mahakali Treaty between India and Nepal;

(b) whether the Nepal Government have raised some objections in the construction of this dam in the hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No Sir. No separate Agreement has been signed for the construction of the Pancheshwar Dam under the Mahakali Treaty between India and Nepal. However, the Mahakali Treaty itself includes an agreement for the implementation of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose project in accordance with the Detailed Project Report which is being prepared.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.