

(b) The President of India held talks with President Cardoso of Brazil in the presence of the two delegations. The two Presidents reviewed the progress of bilateral relations between India and Brazil. It was noted that there was scope for further expansion of bilateral relations, especially in trade and economic cooperation in areas like electronics, Computer Software, telecommunication, aviation, railways, steel, pharmaceuticals, traditional Indian medicine, automobiles, motor-cycles, scooters and cycles. Possibilities of collaborations and joint ventures in some of the areas were also discussed. The Brazilian side has shown keenness to obtain fresh genetic material from India for their cattle. About 80% of the Brazilian cattle is from Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. An Implementing Arrangement for cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine under the bilateral agreement on Science & Technology was also signed. A Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of India and the Rio Branco Institute of Brazil was also signed. In the multilateral area, the two Presidents discussed reform of the UN system and expansion of the UN Security Council.

(c) and (d) During the discussions on reform of Security Council, India and Brazil renewed their support for each other's candidature for the permanent seat in the Expanded Security Council as pledged in the Joint Declaration issued at the end of President Cardoso's visit to India in January, 1996. Both countries agreed to work closely together to achieve this objective.

Distribution of River Water

1146. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether water distribution work in different parts of the country is not working smoothly;

(b) if so, the remedial steps being taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Disputes leading to river water distribution in five river basins were referred to Government of India and in turn Government of India constituted following five tribunals in accordance with the provision of Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956 to adjudicate the disputes :

- (i) Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal
- (ii) Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal
- (iii) Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal

(iv) Ravi-Beas Water Disputes Tribunal

(v) Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal

The first three Tribunals have given their final awards. Ravi-Beas Water Disputes Tribunal has given a report on 30.1.1987 & the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has given an interim order on 25.6.1991.

No policy guidelines for water allocation of inter-state rivers have been finalised by the Government.

Pending Projects of Bihar

1147. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of projects of Bihar are pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) if so, since when these projects are pending with the Union Government ; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) No Project of Bihar is pending for action in Planning Commission for investment clearance.

Status of Industry

1148. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:
SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to grant the status of industry to the agriculture;

(b) if so, the manner in which it is likely to benefit to the farmers; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The National Policy on Agriculture currently under formulation envisages a positive trade and investment climate for agriculture at par with industry. The intention is to bestow on the agricultural sector, in as many respects as possible, benefits similar to those obtaining the industry such as easy availability of credit and other inputs, free movements of agricultural products and infrastructural facilities etc.