

Visit by Foreign Minister of Portugal

*48. SHRI SARJOO PANDEY:

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of Portugal recently visited India and met our Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister;

(b) if so, the gist of the discussions held; and

(c) whether any treaty was signed between India and Portugal and if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Discussions were held on various topics of bilateral and international interest. Copies of the Treaty signed on the 31st December, 1974 have been placed in the Parliament Library. The Treaty is yet to be ratified. The main features of the Treaty are the formal recognition by Portugal of India's full sovereignty over Goa, Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli from the dates on which they became parts of India under the Indian Constitution; the resumption of diplomatic relations between Portugal and India with immediate effect; agreement to settle through bilateral negotiations all questions between them including those concerning properties, assets and claims; and a provision to conclude a cultural agreement shortly.

Achievement of Planned Target of Shipping Industry

*49 SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shipping being highly capital-intensive industry, Government have taken any steps to grow

and expand it to achieve the planned target;

(b) whether liberal financial assistance at moderate rate of interest is proposed to be given; and

(c) if not, what other steps are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): (a) to (c). A non-lapsable fund called the Shipping Development Fund was set up in 1959 for grant of rupee loans to Shipping Companies to facilitate the growth of Indian Shipping tonnage. The Fund had sanctioned till October, 1974, loans amounting to Rs. 596.34 crores, of which Rs. 368.44 crores have been disbursed.

SAIL Commissioned Feasibility Studies for Giant Steel Plants

*50. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SAIL has commissioned feasibility studies for two more giant steel plants;

(b) if so, the time likely to be taken for completion of the studies; and

(c) the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): (a) to (c). The Steel Authority of India Limited have commissioned Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited to prepare Feasibility Reports on two integrated steel plants—one in the Bailadila region in Madhya Pradesh and the other near Surajgarh in Maharashtra. These studies are likely to be completed within six months. The Feasibility Reports would be for

steel capacity of about 2 to 3 million tonnes at each of these sites. These studies have been undertaken in connection with the long-term steel development programme and can be made use of only while considering proposals for the future Five Year Plans.

Relations with Hanoi

*51. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Hanoi have expressed a desire to have closer relations with the Government of India; and

(b) if so, whether any further step has been taken to strengthen the relationship between Hanoi and India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Government of India and the DRVN have remained in close touch with each other in order to strengthen their relations.

(b) There is a current trade agreement between the two governments. The Government of India has also extended training facilities to a number of DRVN students.

Setting up Special Alloy Steel Plant at Kanpur

*52. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken to set up Special Alloy Steel Plant at Kanpur;

(b) if not, the reasons for this abnormal delay; and

(c) when a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Government had sanctioned the Special Alloy Steel Project at Kanpur on 5th November, 1971. The cost of

this project has subsequently gone up considerably. Due to resources constraint and to make the project economically viable, the proposal has now been reframed, linking it up with a civil requirement. If the proposal is accepted, the revised cost and the size of the project will be worked out for obtaining Government sanction.

(c) No firm date can be indicated at this stage.

Eradication of Smallpox

*53. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state.

(a) the positive steps taken by Government to wipe out smallpox from the country;

(b) the time by which it is expected to be eradicated; and

(c) the amount earmarked and programme chalked out for the eradication of smallpox on the national level?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (c). A statement is laid down on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) It is hoped that India will be free of smallpox before the end of 1975.

Statement

In 1973 when increasing incidence of smallpox became evident, the Central and State Governments together with the World Health Organisation launched an intensive campaign in the entire country to contain the smallpox outbreaks. Under this campaign large number of health personnel and transport have been mobilised for search and containment operations. 89 Special Surveillance Teams headed by Senior Epidemiologists are presently working all over the country. 155 Special mobile Containment Teams consisting of a medical officer and para-medical and other