

incurred. The Ministry suggests to use diesel. Information about losses has been supplied by the people of the area too. I would like to know from the hon. Minister by what time gas supply at proper pressure will be restored to the industries to facilitate the development.

[English]

CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA: Sir, if there is an isolated case of a pipeline being choked, I shall investigate the matter and get back to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through the gas plant set up at Varanasi gas is being supplied to entire Eastern Uttar Pradesh. So far its has not picked up. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether arrangements will be made there especially for supplying gas?

[English]

CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA: Sir, we will get the matter examined.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, length of HBJ gas pipe line in Madhya Pradesh is of 550 kms. Demand for supply of gas to set up gas based power plants in Madhya Pradesh has been made. In view of the capacity of the gas pipeline being increased, I would like to know whether gas will be made available to Madhya Pradesh?

[English]

CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA: Sir, as the hon. Member is aware, on the

one hand the HBJ upgradation work is going on and in due course the gas supply position will improve. But at present the situation is so tight that, in fact, even in respect of those power stations, fertiliser plants and other projects which are along the HBJ pipeline where we have committed to supply a quantity of gas, we are not able to do and they have been notified to have their captive power generation using alternate fuel and take other measures because of paucity of gas. As the gas position improve, then it will be possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, today we have a Short Notice Question. This is a good method of pinpointing the issues and asking the questions rather than raising it in unlisted business hour.

May I ask Shri Indrajit Gupta to put the question please?

12.01 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Proposed Convention on Tibet

[English]

SNQ 1. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an organisation calling itself "All-Party Indian Parliamentary Forum for Tibet" has announced holding of a convention on Tibet from March 18 to 20, 1994 in New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Government of India's approval has been sought and granted for the same;

(c) the names of Indian and foreign dignitaries invited to the Convention; and

(d) whether holding of such a Convention would violate the understanding between His Holiness Dalai Lama and the Government that Tibetan refugees should refrain from conducting anti-Chinese activities in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Government are aware of press reports on the holding of a Parliamentarians Convention on Tibet, from March 18–20, 1994 in New Delhi, by the so-called 'All-Party Indian Parliamentary Forum for Tibet'.

(b) Government's approval has not been sought or granted for the holding of this convention and Government is in no way associated with it.

(c) Names of Indian and foreign dignitaries invited to this convention are being ascertained.

(d) For Tibetan refugees in India to participate in the convention and make public attacks on China, would violate the understanding between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Government that Tibetan refugees should refrain from conducting anti-China political activities in India.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, I have been honoured with the invitation also to this convention.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Many others have been invited.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: But unfortunately the invitation card has not been accompanied by any indication of what exactly is the agenda of this proposed

convention. Is it a convention, for example, it could be relating to so-called violation of human rights, because that is the fashion nowadays in the world? Is it that violation of human rights is going on in China an agenda or is it the agenda of this convention to challenge the sovereignty of the People's Republic of China over Tibet? We have no indication before one can make up one's mind whether one should really attend such a convention or not. These points should be cleared up. But as far as the (*Interruptions*) I would like to know because I am bit nervous because we have just had an example where a big power, using this question of human rights as a cover, then has gone on to question the sovereignty, in fact, of our own country over a certain area, as you know.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they have any information regarding the purpose of the convention or what is going to be its main subject matter of discussion and secondly whether they know that Dalai Lama is attending this convention or not and who are the foreign guests who have been invited and who are likely to attend?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR: And who will pay the bill?

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the purpose of this Convention has been set out in a letter which all the Members have already received. But with regard to Mr. Dalai Lama, neither he is attending this Conference, nor it is sponsored by His Holiness Mr. Dalai Lama.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has said that their approval was not sought by the organisers of the Convention and it has not been granted either. But this does not at all indicate as to what is the

Government's overall attitude. Do they approve of such a Convention being held in India or do they not approve? We do not know, because after all, if the foreign guests are to come, obviously they have to be given visa facilities by the Government. Without visa facilities they cannot come here. So, what specific action is being taken by the Government in the matter?

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government's position is very clear that neither they have asked our permission, nor have we granted it. Our attitude is very clear on this issue that Tibet is an autonomous region of China and this has been our policy. It is for the organisers to tell as to from which countries they have been invited and who are the people coming to attend this Convention. But so far as visas are concerned, we cannot stop visa for the people who are coming to this country.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to clarify that the convention is being organised by the Members of Indian Parliament associated with the "All Party Indian Parliamentary Forum for Tibet". I am its organiser and the invitation cards referred to have been issued by me and Shri George Fernandes. The convention will be inaugurated by your predecessor, Shri Rabi Ray and will be presided over by the Member of the Constituent Assembly and freedom fighter, Shri Nijlingappa.

There is no need to obtain permission for democratic activities from the Government in independent sovereign India. I do not think there is the need to obtain permission from any other country. I would like to submit that 55 Parliamentarians of various democracies, moved by

the plight of Tibetans, are going to participate in the Convention.

Objective of the Convention is not to challenge the sovereignty of China nor to spoil the improving ties between India and China. Objective is only to highlight to the World the plight of Tibetans refugees living in India for 34-35 years and to remind the World that there can't be two yardsticks of human rights. There should not be two yardsticks of human rights violations one for South Africa and the other for Tibet.

Therefore, I would like to submit to the Government that Visa as per the provisions and conventions of diplomacy and politics should not be refused to Parliamentarians of one country intending to visit any other country. I would like to submit that Visa to three Parliamentarians of Cuba, Ireland and Costa Rica have been refused. I urge the hon. Minister that the Ministry of External Affairs should resist from refusing Visa to Parliamentarians of other countries and Visa should be granted for participating in the Convention.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: I have already informed Shri Indrajit that the Government has not refused Visa to foreigners intending to attend Convention. Visa has already been issued to the Irish delegate.

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Apart from the point that has already been raised in regard to this Convention, the question is the timing of it also. Some days ago, what happened in Geneva, we all know. The role China played was also lauded in this country. Now what prompted the organisers—who may be individuals and all that—to hold a convention like this, just in this background? That is a very

important question that the Government must clarify.

Another point is, individuals can do many things, they have every right to do that. But we must also appreciate that China also has some sensitivity on the matter. While we are emphasising closer relations between India and China, whether you have made it abundantly clear that the Government has nothing to do with this convention.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already made it clear. You can make it doubly clear.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Well, China is sensitive on this conference and they have brought to our notice the conference being held in India, when the relations between China and India are improving and becoming cordial. At this juncture, holding a conference can create some misunderstanding between the two countries. But we have explained to China that in our country, our laws and our Constitution do permit the freedom of expression and as such, I think, they realise our position.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Has the Government given any patronage?

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Our stand is very clear. I have already answered to the question of Mr. Indrajit Gupta that Tibet is an autonomous region of China.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I seek just two clarifications.

The hon. Indrajit Gupta spoke of the sovereignty of China over Tibet. The hon. Minister spoke of other interpretations of the same thing. Therefore, would

the Government clarify what is its stand. Does it consider the People's Republic of China having sovereign right over Tibet?

MR. SPEAKER: Autonomous province means that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Let the Government clarify that.

MR. SPEAKER: There is international connotation attached to certain phrases.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: That is why, I am asking for reiteration, because my hon. colleague has spoken of sovereign right. I am asking whether the Government of India concurs that the People's Republic of China has got sovereign rights over Tibet.

Secondly, even now would the Government of India recognise that the policy that is pursued in respect of Tibet, civilisationally, historically and in terms of India's national interest has been a great disaster and a great blunder?

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: I have already explained that Tibet is the autonomous region of China. I think, that is sufficiently clear. It needs no elaboration.

With regard to policy of Indian Government towards Tibet, I would explain that it has been our policy throughout and various Governments, various successive Governments which have come have taken that position.

In 1951, when there was an uprising in Tibet, there was an agreement between H.H. Dalai Lama and the Chinese Government of this autonomous

region. It is a matter between the Tibetan people and the Chinese Government. Whatever agreements they have made, well we cannot interfere in that. It is an internal matter of China and Tibet.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a conference is being held on this very sensitive issue and particularly by the parliamentarians. The Government's position has been made clear. But I would like to know when it is always desirable to have the external affairs policy a unanimous one, a sort of national policy, will the Minister make any efforts to persuade the organisers, keeping the sensitive nature of this issue in view, to withdraw this Conference?

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Well, as I said, in India, our Laws and Constitution permit for the expression of their views. As such, I think the organisers should see the position of this House in the larger interest and the views expressed by respectable members. It is for them to fulfil this.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: In view of the fact that the Chinese Government had conveyed its sensitivity and also its apprehension about this convention and keeping in view our friendship with China, it is in the mutual interest of both the countries and the people of both the countries to see whether the Government has been able to fully satisfy the Chinese Government that in respect of the deliberations, the conclusions and the resolutions, whatever is being done in the Conference, the Government does not support all those things.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: As I have already explained, we have explained to them that in India everybody can express his views. But so far as Government policy is concerned, there is no change in their view that Tibet is the autonomous

part of China and it is a matter between the people of Tibet and China to settle, if there is any outstanding difference.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: China has expressed its apprehension. Therefore, I ask whether our answer has satisfied them to remove their apprehension.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker: Sir, happenings take place fast. My colleagues S/Shri George Fernandes and Mohan Singh have already putforth their views. Keeping in mind the interests of India we raise the issue of Tibet. All of us remember the Indo-China war of 1962. It was raised comprehensively by our revered leader Shri Lohiaji. In pursuance to only those democratic conventions such conventions are being organised. My party has organised such conventions even in the past. However, unity and integrity of the nation are supreme.

I totally endorse the views of S/Shri Indrajit and Saifuddin Choudhury. There is the need to ponder over how in the prevailing circumstances national interests could be best served and strengthened? It is all the more important when Dunkel and GATT are going to be signed and in the light of the policy of Iran and China regarding human rights. This latter tool was adopted by Pakistan to attack Indian unity and integrity. The policy pursued by China at this juncture needs to be pondered over.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, definitely the present scenario is quite a serious one. We are historically associated with this issue. We should be responsive to the sentiments of Tibetans living in India. However, I would like to categorically

submit that no policy could be formulated by sacrificing the nations interests nor anything could be done. Every action should be within the limits. In the changed scenario if war against poverty is to be launched then Iran and China could be our strong allies. I do not think any other nation could give us enough of required support.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, therefore, on this issue we will have to incorporate and maintain balance between our national interests and democratic conventions. The views expressed both by my colleagues and Shri Bhatia are quite relevant... (*Interruptions*)... We have got 40 years old conventions on Tibet. We have to ponder over the issue by keeping in mind the national interests as well as these conventions. I would like to categorically submit that democratic ideals and national interests are quite clear to us and we think that in the light of our friendly relations with China it is all the more relevant.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think no more discussion is required. We have this question, answer and a discussion. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, do you want to ask any question?

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what all has been submitted is quite relevant. However, I think the question is not that relevant.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think the House has expressed its view through the question-answers in clear terms. Some of these things are double edged. The time

is also important. All these facts will be taken into account by all the concerned.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Village Health Guides

*285. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Village Health Guides at present, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the honorarium being paid to them for their services;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the honorarium;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether there is any proposal to abolish the Village Health Guide scheme; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) A *Statement* is attached.

(b) Rs. 50/- per month.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (g). Some States have abolished the scheme, as it is not serving a useful purpose.