

SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) to (f). The Chinese Vice Premier and Foreign Minister, Qian Qichen, visited India from July 17-19, 1994 at the invitation of the Government of India. During the visit he called on the President and the Prime Minister. He also had meetings with the Commerce Minister, Finance Minister, Minister of State for External Affairs and the Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office. The visit continued the high level political dialogue between the two countries and provided a useful opportunity for a detailed exchange of views on various subjects of mutual interest.

During the visit the two sides discussed a wide range of issues including improvement and consolidation of bilateral relations, implementation of the Border Peace and Tranquillity Agreement signed during the Prime Minister's visit to China in September, 1993, the further development of trade, economic and other ties, the international situation and India-China cooperation in multi-lateral and international fora.

The two sides reviewed developments in India-China relations since Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in 1988 and expressed happiness at the progress and forward movement. Both sides felt that the process of continuous improvement of India-China relations should continue while differences are gradually resolved. The development of economic and trade linkages would contribute meaningfully to this process. Direct contacts between business enterprises of the two countries would lead to the identification of new joint ventures and opportunities for economic cooperation. It was agreed to hasten finalisation of agreements for direct shipping and banking links. During the visit an Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation was signed. The Agreement is expected to facilitate investment and technology flows between the

two countries.

During discussions, the two sides stressed the importance of implementation of Border Peace and Tranquillity Agreement and agreed to work towards turning the India-China border areas into areas of friendship and to open further points for border trade between the two countries. The Chinese side reiterated its stand that the Kashmir question should be resolved by patient dialogue between the parties concerned namely India and Pakistan.

The visit provided a useful opportunity for detailed exchange of views where both countries have expressed their determination to continue positive developments in India-China relations so as to establish mature, stable and long-term relations between India and China.

### **MTNL Proposals**

\*120 SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has submitted E-Mail proposal to the Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government to the proposal; and

(d) the other proposals submitted by MTNL to serve the growing communication needs of the people more effectively and to augment its revenue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI  
SUKH RAM) (a) No, Sir..

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

(d) MTNL has not submitted any proposal for new services. However, MTNL has drawn up a plan for easy availability of telephones by 1995. The plan envisages release of 6 lakh new telephones as against current target of 4 lakh telephones and will require a capital outlay of Rs. 1357.04 crores against Rs. 986 crores already approved.

### **Tonnage of Ships**

1067. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether New Tonnage Measurement Rule based on an international convention have come into force recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effect of these new rules on the shipping industry? •

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on an International Convention which came into force on 18th July, 1982, Merchant Shipping (Tonnage Measurement of Ships) Rules, 1987 were made operative in May, 1987 for ships built on or after 18th July, 1982 and for all other ships these rules became effective from 18th July, 1994.

(c) These rules will increase/decrease the existing tonnage of the ships marginally depending upon type of ships entailing corresponding increase/decrease in expenses relating to port dues and other port related expenses.

### **Coal Supply to Barauni Thermal Power Station**

1068. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received complaints about the loss suffered by the Barauni Thermal Power Station due to supply of sub standard Coal;

(b) if so, the details of the damage caused to the machines and loss suffered in terms of Power generation; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) (a) to (c). As per the monthly coal quality data received from power station and analysed by CEA the overall calorific value (grade) of coal being received at Barauni power station is as per its design requirement. However, there have been some complaints about receipt of extraneous materials like stone and oversized coal. These complaints are looked into by the coal companies.

[*English*]

### **Setting up of Food Processing Units**

1069. SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals received for setting up of Food Processing Industries in Gujarat and Maharashtra during the last