

occurrence of such incident in the sea-waters adjoining India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R.BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) Oil spills can occur anywhere in the ocean due to accidents/grounding of ships, etc. Safe navigation and incorporation of safety measures in the ship construction such a double bottom hull etc. are the major factors for preventing such oil spills. Considering this the Government are implementing National Oil Spill Contingency Plan for combating oil spill disaster in the Indian Territorial waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone through the Coast Guard under the Ministry of Defence. The major objectives of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan inter-alia include: (a) to develop appropriate and effective systems for the detection and reporting of spillage of oil or of incidents related to operations of shipping which could result in such spillage, (b) to ensure prompt response to either prevent pollution or restrict in spread of contaminants, (c) to ensure that adequate protection is provided for the public health and welfare and the marine environment, (d) to ensure that the appropriate response techniques are used to clean up the pollutants and that disposal of recovered material is carried out in an environmentally acceptable manner. In the event of any oil spill, a team of scientists drawn from the National Research Laboratories such as National Institute of oceanography, Fishery Survey of India, Zoological Survey of India, Botanical Survey of India and Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, visit the incident site for making an on-the-spot assessment of the impact of oil spill on the marine environment, fauna and flora.

Longer Stay Visa

162. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and U.S.A. plan to have a ten year validity visa;

(b) if so, whether this decision is likely to encourage frequent visits to promote business and tourism;

(c) whether any agreement in this regard has since been reached and;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) to (d) The proposal to have ten year validity visas, on reciprocal basis, between India and the United States of America, is under Government's active consideration.

Non-recognition of Dental Degrees by Foreign Universities

163. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the medical and dental degrees conferred by the Indian Universities are not being recognised by Australian and British Universities for admission to post-graduate courses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are considering ways and means to resolve it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) There is no such report.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Indo-Pak Foreign Secretary Level Talks

164. PROF. P.J. KURIAN:

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN:

SHRI P. NAMGYAL:

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

SHRI B.L. SHANKAR:

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:

SHRI E. AHMED:

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA:

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR:

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:

SHRI P.C.THOMAS:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN:

SHRI SANAT MEHTA:

SHRI B.K. GADHVI:

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI:

SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY:

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the third round Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan was held recently at Islamabad;

(b) if so, the details of the issues raised and resolved at the talks;

(c) the major breakthrough achieved towards normalisation of relations and outcome of second round of talks;

(d) whether the issue of Jammu & Kashmir was discussed at the talks;

(e) if so, the stand taken by Pakistan in this issue;

(f) the venue and date of next round of talks; and

(g) the steps taken by both the Governments to resolve all the outstanding issues amicably?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) to (g) The second round of the resumed Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan was held in Islamabad from 19-23 June, 1997. A Joint Statement was issued on 23 June, 1997 in Islamabad on the conclusion of the talks.

The two sides decided to address, inter alia, the following subjects: (a) Peace and Security, including CBMs; (b) Jammu and Kashmir; (c) Slachen; (d) Tulbul Navigation Project; (e) Sir Creek; (f) Terrorism and drug trafficking; (g) Economic and Commercial Cooperation; (h) Promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields. They also agreed to set up a mechanism, including working groups at appropriate levels; to address all these issues in an integrated manner; the issues at (a) and (b) above will be dealt at the level of the Foreign Secretaries, who will also coordinate and monitor the progress of all the working groups. Both sides further agreed to take all possible steps to prevent hostile propaganda and provocative actions against each other.

The Joint Statement provides the basis for a compre-

hensive, constructive and sustained dialogue between India and Pakistan. It is the framework under which substantive discussions would take place on various issues. We look upon it as a step forward in our efforts to engage Pakistan on a broad front with the objective of building a relationship of trust, friendship and cooperation.

While the talks focussed primarily on modalities and mechanism for future discussions, our serious concerns about Pakistan's active encouragement of terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir were also made clear and the factual position regarding Jammu and Kashmir was reiterated to Pakistan. Pakistan stated its known position on Jammu & Kashmir.

Next round of Foreign Secretary level talks will take place in New Delhi in September, 1997; the exact dates will be decided through mutual consultations.

Dengue Cases in Bangalore

165. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Virology has detected dengue cases in Bangalore city for the past one year;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected and the number of patients died;

(c) whether the Government are aware that Government Hospitals in Bangalore city do not have facility to treat these cases; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to provide medical help to dengue patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per reports received from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), there were 28 confirmed Dengue cases with 4 deaths recorded in Bangalore city during the year 1996.

(c) and (d) As reported by Government of Karnataka, facilities are available for management and treatment of Dengue/DHF cases in Bangalore. However a need has been expressed for strengthening District hospitals and Government Medical College hospitals with equipment for better detection and management of Dengue cases.

Workshop on Child Labour

166. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a workshop on elimination of child labour from hosiery and Government Industries was held