

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (d) The project report for Modernisation of Hirakud Dam (distribution system) was received from the State Government of Orissa in December, 1984 for techno-economic appraisal. Due to non compliance of observation of CWC, the scheme was sent back to the State Government in April, 1989 for submission of modified report. The modified report has not been received. However, some components of the project, namely improvements to main system and Bhim Tikra, Parmanpur, Barrgarh and Resam distributaries at an estimated cost of Rs. 20.91 crores have been included in Water Resources Consolidation Project of Orissa which has been given investment clearance by the Planning Commission in September, 1995 for an estimated cost of Rs. 977.00 crores. The project has been taken up with the financial assistance from the World Bank under an agreement signed in January, 1996. The closing date of the World Bank credit is September, 2002.

Operation Black Board

3836. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of class rooms constructed in Orissa under 'Operation Black Board Programme' during each of the last three years;

(b) whether State Government has sought-any financial assistance under the programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) According to information furnished by the State Govt., the number of class rooms constructed in Orissa under Operation Blackboard Scheme during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Class rooms constructed
1993-94	04
1994-95	2826
1995-96	1744

(b) to (d) The position regarding financial assistance sanctioned to the State Govt. under the Operation Blackboard Scheme from 1987-88 to 1995-96 and utilisation of funds is given below:

S. No.	Item	Funds Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	Funds Utilised
i.	Teaching Learning Equipment to 34178 Primary Schools.	2484.79	1947.81
ii.	Salary for 14112 additional Teachers Sanctioned for Single Teacher Schools.	12212.42	12212.42

Plan to Deprive India of Modern Weapons

3837. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Bharat Ko Adhunik Hathiaron Se Vanchit Rakhne ki Nai Chal" appearing in 'Dainik Jagran' dated July 5 1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government maintains that ad-hoc export control regimes that lack transparency and do not take into account the legitimate demands for access to technology for economic development are discriminatory. The Government will follow the functioning of the Wassenaar Arrangement which came into being on 11-12 July 1996.

(c) The Government of India is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard its security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

[Translation]

Foreign Visits of Former Prime Minister

3838. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries visited by the former Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao during the last three years; and

(b) the purpose of each visit and the achievements made during each of these visits?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b). A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT*Countries visited by Former Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao in 1993, 94 and 95*

S. No.	Country	Dates of Visit	Purpose and Achievements
1.	Thailand	07—10 April, '93	To cement bilateral relations and economic links. The visit resulted in improvement in bilateral relations, better understanding of India's position and further increase in trade and investment.
2.	Bangladesh	10—11 April, '93	To attend the 7th SAARC Summit. SAARC related matters were discussed with the then Prime Minister of Bangladesh and bilateral issues such as sharing of river waters, demarcation of Indo-Bangladesh Land and Maritime Boundary, Transit facilities and economic cooperation were discussed.
3.	Uzbekistan	23—25 May, '93	The visit was aimed at enhancing and strengthening relations in various spheres. Agreements on Trade and Economic Cooperation, Credit of \$ 10 million, Air Services and Memorandum of Understanding on measures for Increasing and Enhancing Economic Cooperation and Trade as also a Treaty on the Principles of Inter-State Relations and Cooperation were signed during the visit. Signing of various agreements have provided a broad framework in different spheres towards strengthening of the relations.
4.	Kazakhstan	25—26 May, '93	The purpose of the visit was to further strengthen bilateral relations in various spheres. Two agreements on Cooperation between Foreign Ministries of the two countries and on Science and Technology were signed during the visit. Signing of the agreements have provided an enlarged framework for further strengthening of relations.
5.	Oman	14—16 June, '93	The visit was at the invitation of the Sultan of Oman. It provided significant impetus to Indo-Omani bilateral relations particularly in the economic field. During the visit an umbrella agreement was signed for cooperation in hydrocarbon sector covering projects for establishment of a deep sea gas pipeline between India and Oman and setting up of two joint venture refineries in India. A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed for setting of a joint venture urea fertilizer plant at Sur in Bhopal.
6.	Bhutan	21—22 August, '93	It was a goodwill visit during which talks were held with His Majesty the King of Bhutan on economic cooperation, bilateral and international relations. The visit further cemented the close ties of understanding and economic cooperation which bind the two countries.
7.	China	6—9 September, '93	The visit was part of the process of high-level exchanges between India and China. The most significant outcome of the visit was signing of the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas. Other agreements signed during the visit were on environmental cooperation, protocol for extension of border trade across Shipki La Pass and on radio and television cooperation. The visit reinforced the positive trend in bilateral relations between the two countries.

S. No.	Country	Dates of Visit	Purpose and Achievements
8.	Republic of Korea	9—11 September, '93	This was the first ever visit of a Prime Minister of India at the invitation of President Kim Young Sam. The visit gave new momentum to our bilateral relations. Prime Minister addressed India-ROK Joint Business Council and met leading ROK industrialists with a view to attracting investment and enhance trade. The agreement on Cooperation in Tourism, a Protocol on Science and Technology and the Cultural Exchange Programme (1993-95) were signed.
9.	Iran	20—22 September, '93	The purpose of the visit to Iran was to promote bilateral relations. It contributed to the generation of greater understanding of mutual concerns and also greater understanding of mutual perceptions on regional and international issues. New areas for bilateral economic and technical cooperation were identified. Two Memorandums of Understanding on cooperation in Science & Technology, and Surface Transport and transit Facilities were signed during the visit.
10.	Davos (Switzerland)	31 January—06 February, '94	The visit was undertaken to attend the World Economic Forum which attracts high level political and business participation from all over the world. Prime Minister's participation drew attention to the wide-ranging reforms underway in the Indian economy.
11.	Germany		The visit to Germany was a part of regular exchange of visits designed to promote closer bilateral relations in all spheres.
12.	United Kingdom	13—17 March, '94	The visit was a part of regular exchange of visits with the intention of promoting closer bilateral relations in all spheres.
13.	United States of America	14—21 May, '94	The aim of the visit was to help strengthen and broaden Indo-US relations by taking advantage of the special opportunities afforded by summit level meetings between the two countries. During the visit Prime Minister Rao and President Clinton agreed to establish a "new Indo-US Partnership". The two countries promised to cooperate in the search for solutions to global challenges and to expand the pace and scope of high level exchanges on the full range of political, economic, commercial, scientific, technological and social issues.
14.	Russian Federation	29 June—02 July, '94	The visit was undertaken with a view to further strengthen the traditionally warm and friendly relations between India and Russia. It was also in response to President Yeltsin's visit to India in January 1993. Besides further strengthening Indo-Russian ties, the visit resulted in the signing of Moscow Declaration on the Protection of the Interests of Pluralistic States, a Declaration on the Further Development and Intensification of Cooperation. Nine agreements were signed, on Cooperation in Science and Technology, Tourism Cooperation, Exploration and Use of Outer Space for

S. Country No.	Dates of Visit	Purpose and Achievements
		Peaceful Purpose. Cooperation in the Field of Information Technology. Cooperation in the field of Protection of Environment and Natural resources. Standardisation, Metrology and Certification Agreement. Memorandum on Science & Technology Cooperation in the Field of Meterology. Protocol to the Agreement on extending credit to India for financing long-term projects in the field of technical cooperation and for purchasing special equipment. and an Agreement of Formation of Indo-Russian Aviation Pvt. Ltd
15. Vietnam	05—09 September, '94	The visit was undertaken with a view to cement already existing friendly relations with Vietnam and to enhance economic links between the two countries. The visit resulted in better understanding of India's position and further surge in trade and investment.
16. Singapore		The visit was undertaken to discuss bilateral relations and to enhance economic links and resulted in a better understanding of India's economic reforms and providing opportunities for enhancement of trade and investment between the two countries
17. Denmark	08—12 March, '95	Visit to Denmark was to attend the UN-organised World Summit for Social Development.
18. Maldives	15—16 April, '95	Prime Minister visited Maldives in connection with the inauguration of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital and for bilateral discussions. The gifting of the Hospital to the Government of Maldives has become a permanent symbol of goodwill for India.
19. France	11—15 June, '95	Bilateral talks with French leadership were held and Prime Minister delivered first in a series of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lectures at UNESCO, commemorating 125th birth anniversary of Gandhiji. The visit contributed towards intensification of Indo-French relations, in particular, economic and commercial as was evident from Prime Minister Juppe's call on French business and industry to shed inhibitions and increase their presence in the Indian market.
20. Malaysia	02—05 August, '95	Matters of mutual interest including bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed during the visit. The visit led to a better understanding of each other's perceptions and concerns and is also expected to give stimulus to bilateral economic cooperation. Five agreements were signed during the visit, on Cooperation in the development of highways, on Promotion and Protection of Investment, on Technical Training and Consultancy Services, and MOUs between Doordarshan and MEASAT Broadcast Network System and between Confederation of Indian Industries and Malaysian Industrial Development Authority were also signed.

S. No	Country	Dates of Visit	Purpose and Achievements
21.	Turkmenistan	19—21 September, '95	<p>The visit was undertaken at the invitation of the President of Turkmenistan. The visit was able to further enhance the mutual understanding between the two countries on issues of common interest and strengthened bilateral relations to mutual advantage. During the visit following agreements were signed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Protocol on foreign Office Consultations; (ii) Extension of Cultural Exchange Programme for 1995-96; (iv) Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement; (v) Extension of the second credit line of US\$ 10 million for Turkmenistan.
22.	Kyrgyzstan	21—23 September, '95	<p>The visit was at the invitation of the President of Kyrgyzstan. It contributed to further strengthening of bilateral relations between the two countries and enhancement of mutual understanding on issues of common interest. Agreements signed during the visit were on Cooperation in Tourism, Cooperation in Science and Technology, and Extension of Cultural Exchange Programme upto 1996.</p>
23.	Egypt, Colombia and New York	19—23 September, '95	<p>During the visit to Egypt, bilateral and international matters of mutual interest were discussed, including ways and means to enhance cooperation in trade economy, science and technology, regional issues relating to South Asia, Middle East, new challenges before international community and strengthening of NAM. Three agreements on Cooperation in Science and Technology, on combatting all forms of criminal acts particularly terrorist, transnational and organised crimes, on Cooperation in the Sphere of Information were signed. The visit gave stimulus to all aspects of bilateral relations and better understanding in both countries of each other's perception on bilateral, regional and international issues.</p> <p>Prime Minister visited Colombia to attend 11th NAM Summit Meeting. The question of UN reforms, international security, disarmament, development, human rights, social issues, and South-South cooperation were debated extensively during the summit.</p> <p>Prime Minister visited New York to attend Special commemorative Meeting to mark the 50th Anniversary of United Nations. India played a crucial role in the drafting of Declaration in evolving a consensus of the many contentious issues and in ensuring that concerns of developing countries were fully reflected in the text.</p>

S. No.	Country	Dates of Visit	Purpose and Achievements
24.	Burkina Faso	02—04 November, '95	The Prime Minister's visit was intended to demonstrate India's interest in strengthening relations in that region. A Trade Agreement and Memorandum of understanding on railway cooperation were signed in Burkino Faso.
25.	Argentina	05—07 November, '95	Prime Minister visited Argentina to attend the 5th G-15 Summit.
26.	Ghana	08—09 November, '95	During the visit bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest were discussed. Indian assistance was offered in the fields of agriculture, small scale industries, tourism, telecommunication and transport to Ghana. An agreement was signed for setting up a Joint Commission with the objective of further enhancing and diversifying the already existing multifaceted bilateral relationship.

[English]

Licences to Blood Banks

3839. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision has been taken by the Government to set up committees to simplify the process of issuing licences to Blood Banks in various States; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure ready availability of blood in major and other Hospitals across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) A procedure for expeditious approval of grant/renewal of licences includes joint inspection by the State and Central authorities with a view to disposing applications in a time bound manner, has been recently introduced.

(b) The Govt. have been organising campaigns to educate the masses through mass media, one-to-one communication etc., to increase voluntary donation of blood. Under the National AIDS Control Programme currently under implementation, all the blood banks run by Govt. are being modernised and have been receiving cash and commodity assistance.

Agreement between CPT and PAB

3840. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has ratified the land-mark sister-

port agreement between the Calcutta Port Trust (CPT) and the Port Authority of Bordeaux (PAB) in France;

(b) the extent to which the sister-port pact is likely to assist the Calcutta Port authorities in increasing the navigable depths of the Hooghly, and the nature of style-chart and style-dredge systems, as envisaged in the agreement;

(c) whether the CPT has since received feedback from the PAB on the technical modalities of the agreement; and

(d) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The use of Syle charts and Syle Dredge system will improve the present Hydrographic survey system in Calcutta Port. Syle Chart systems are basically automatic data logging facilities which will produce survey charts very quickly after actual sounding of the depth in the river and Syle Dredge system is basically a dredge monitor which will help in optimising dredging operations and exercising effective control on dredging.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Stagnation in Units of Ordnance Factories

3841. SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ex-servicemen, who joined in early 80's in different units of Ordnance Factories Board, have been stagnating in the same post for the last 16-17 years: