

been established, additional observation post towers have been constructed for watching movement of intruders and BSF have been equipped with sophisticated equipments and vehicles for intensive patrolling.

Visit of Afghanistan Foreign Minister

630. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan visited India of February, 1990; and

(b) if so, the precise issue discussed with him and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Afghan Foreign Minister H.E. Abdul Wakil paid an official visit to India from 13-15 February, 1990.

(b) The visit was utilised to discuss bilateral, regional and International issues of Mutual interest. The talks revealed a close identity of views.

It was also decided to double bilateral trade and to review and further strengthen economic and technical cooperation between our two countries.

Visit of Foreign Secretary to USA

631. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign Secretary Visited United States in February, 1990; and

(b) if so, the purpose of the visit and the outcome thereof?

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

(b) The visit was a continuation of the process of bilateral high level consultations between the two Governments. In addition to discussions on bilateral and International issues, the Foreign Secretary expressed India's concern on the situation in Kashmir and provided information to US authorities on the extent and nature of Pakistan's support to terrorist and separatist activities in Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir.

The outcome of the visit was positive. The US Government reaffirmed its commitment to the unity and territorial integrity of India and supported India's position that the Kashmir issue should be resolved bilaterally in the spirit of the Simla Agreement.

Placing of Calcutta under Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited

632. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to place Calcutta under Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b). The matter is under consideration. No final decision has yet been taken by the Government.

Formulation of New Agricultural Policy

633. SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to