

are to be traded as well as other arrangements for the conduct of overland trade. The views of the Government of Myanmar to this Draft Agreement are awaited. The opening of overland trade routes would depend on the finalisation of this agreement.

In respect of Bangladesh, the matter regarding resumption of Border Trade has been raised in various fora but the response of the Government of Bangladesh has not been encouraging.

**Extraction Unit of Helium Gas at  
Barkeswar, West Bengal**

3803. SHRI RADHIKA RANJAN  
PARMANIK:  
SHRI RAM CHANDRA DOME:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up extraction unit for Helium at the thermal springs of Barkeswar, West Bengal to trap the gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMAR MANGALAM): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Already helium is being collected from the thermal springs at Barkeswar and is being purified for use for laboratory purposes. However, the volume is relatively small and does not call for a very large extraction unit.

[Translation]

**Intelligence Unit for Monitoring Prices  
of EC**

3804. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:  
SHRI N. J. RATHVA;

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to constitute any intelligence unit for monitoring the prices of essential commodities;

(b) whether Union Government also propose to take cooperation of the State Governments in its constitution;

(c) whether such unit is likely to help in controlling the prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d). The Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution is monitoring the prices of selected essential commodities at certain identified centres in various States/UTs in the country, as part of its regular functions. No separate cell has been set up exclusively for this purpose. The State Governments/UT Administrations have been extending cooperation in collection of information.

Such monitoring system enables the Government to take appropriate measures and provides useful information for policy formulation.