

signed on 16/10/95 - will enable both countries to exchange information, experiences and techniques in combating these crimes.

TUNISIA

- (i) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Tunisia on Scientific and Technological Cooperation Signed on 17/10/95 - designed to promote cooperation in the field of science and technology, including holding of joint projects and research work, and exchange of scientists.
- (ii) Joint Declaration between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Tunisia on cooperation in Combating Terrorism, Drug Trafficking & Organised Crime signed on 17/10/95 - this Declaration reflects the political determination of the two countries to combat problems of terrorism and organised crime.

KYRGHYZSTAN

- (i) Agreement on cooperation in the field of Tourism signed on 22/9/95 - seeks to promote cooperation in tourism including cooperation between tourist companies of the two countries, for dissemination of information about each other, cooperation in building tourist establishments like hotels, restaurants and exploring possibilities of joint investment.
- (ii) Agreement on cooperation in the field of Science and Technology signed on 22/9/95 - seeks to promote cooperation in the field of science and technology by arranging exchange of scientists, scientific and technical information, holding of seminars and exhibitions and conducting joint research programme.
- (iii) An Amendment to the Credit Agreement for extension of a line of credit for US \$ 5 million signed on 19/10/95. This was a technical amendment changing the name of the Kyrgyz Bank responsible for servicing the Agreement signed earlier.

TURKMENISTAN

- (i) Agreement for the promotion and protection of Investment signed on 20/9/95 - is for creating conditions favourable for fostering greater investment by investors of one State in the territory of the other State and encouragement and reciprocal protection under International agreement of investment conducive to the stimulation of individual business initiative and to increase prosperity in both States.

- (ii) Credit Agreement of US \$ 10 million signed on 20/9/95 - will make available to the Government of Turkmenistan second line of credit upto an amount of US \$ 10 million for further strengthening economic relations between the two countries.
- (iii) Agreement on the Inter-governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation signed on 20/9/95 - would provide the basis for enhancing cooperation in all the spheres covered by it and would endeavour to formulate steps to enhance trade and economic cooperation. The Agreement also outlines the composition of permanent and provisional bodies which would be established to monitor cooperation in all spheres.
- (iv) Agreement on Cultural Exchange Programme signed on 20/9/95 - provides for cooperation in the spheres of culture, arts, education, mass media and sports. This Agreement, which was signed in April 1992 and was valid till 1994, has been extended for a further period of two years i.e. 1995 and 1996.

[Translation]

Port Based Steel Plants

3135. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up port based steel plants in the country, especially in the backward and tribal areas of Gujarat State;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the estimated cost involved therein , alongwith other details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to set up port based steel plants in the country, especially in the backward and tribal areas of Gujarat State.

(b) and (c). Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[English]

Development in Power Sector

3136. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any comprehensive plan to develop power sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan in private and public sectors; and

(b) if so, the amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The approved outlay for the power sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan is Rs. 79,589 crores for Public Sector. In addition, 245 expression of interests have been received from private sector companies to set up power projects involving an investment of about Rs. 3,39,708 crores.

Sick Drug Units

3137. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some drug units in public sector were declared sick;

(b) if so, the number and names of such drug units, State-wise and when these units were closed;

(c) whether the employees in each unit were given employment and if so, the details thereof during last three years;

(d) whether the Government have taken steps to make these units viable; and

(e) the steps taken to safeguard the interest of the employees working therein?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (e). Yes, Sir. Four Central Public Sector Undertakings, namely, Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Gurgaon (Haryana), Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Calcutta (West Bengal), Bengal Immunity Ltd., Calcutta (West Bengal) and Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Calcutta (West Bengal) have been formally declared sick by the BIFR. Two joint sector drug companies, namely, Uttar Pradesh Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) and Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd., Bhubaneswar (Orissa) have also been formally declared sick by the BIFR.

The revival packages, approved by the BIFR, for all these six companies are under implementation. None of these companies has been closed.

[Translation]

Membership of UN Security Council

3138. PFOF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the grounds on which India is seeking to become a member of the UN Security Council; and

(b) the names of the other countries that are seeking membership of the UN Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) India believes that selection of new permanent members of the Security Council should be based on objective criteria which include population, size of the economy, contribution to and participation in UN activities and future potential. We have also supported the Charter principle of equitable geographical distribution and contribution to maintenance of international peace and security as basis for selection.

(b) Germany, Japan, Brazil, Nigeria and Indonesia have announced that they are seeking Permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

[English]

Rural Housing Plan

3139. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to raise funds for the rural housing project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The utilisation of funds under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) has been extremely satisfactory in several States and owing to its popularity there has been a persistent demand for greater allocation of funds under the scheme. It has also been a fact that the number of homeless poor house-holds has been on the increase at an alarming rate. Taking these facts into consideration, the Government has stepped up allocation of funds from the normal about Rs.438 crores during 1994-95 to Rs.1250 crores for 1995-96 targetting construction of one million houses in the country. It is also proposed to raise funds under IAY during the next coming years.

[Translation]

External Affairs Minister's Visit to UK

3140. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the issues discussed with the British leaders during his recent bilateral visit to UK and the outcome of the visit;

(b) whether the issues relating to Jammu and Kashmir figured in his talks with British leaders; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?