

envisages various proposals, and exchange programmes, in the field of media, museums, sports, exhibitions, work-shops, seminars, short-term visitors, fellowships, performing delegations, conservation programmes etc. Both the countries cooperate in these on the basis of agreements reached in the Joint Sub-Commission.

(d) Implementation of the programme is a continuing process and undertaken on mutual convenient dates. A review of the programmes undertaken is done every year at the Joint Sub-Committee and sub-Commission meetings.

Basel Convention

1101. SHRI ANAND SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sign the Basel Convention to control the movement and disposal of hazardous wastes including household waste of hazardous nature; and

(b) obligations which would devolve on India as a result of signing of this Convention and advantages which would accrue to the country as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):
(a) and (b). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The Government has taken steps to sign the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. The obligations which would devolve on India and the advantages that would accrue to the country after signing the Convention are as follows:

- (i) The Convention seeks to prohibit the export of hazardous wastes without the written consent of the importing country. As per this clause, India will be obliged to give consent in writing before any export of hazardous wastes takes place from an exporting country. Thus, it will help to stop any illegal export of hazardous wastes by an exporting country to India.
- (ii) The Convention also provides that the consent of the transit country which is a party to the Convention should also be obtained by the exporting country before embarking upon export. A time limit of 60 days is given for transit country to give the consent. This will help the country to have a control on movement of hazardous wastes to a transit country through its territory.
- (iii) The Convention puts an obligation on countries producing hazardous wastes to manage them in an environmentally sound manner. Such wastes may under no circumstances be transferred to the countries of import or transit. This provision will help the industry in developing countries including India to build their in-house capability to process hazardous wastes generated by them.
- (iv) The countries who are party to the Convention shall, within three months, designate one or more competent authorities and one focal point to implement various provisions of the convention. In case of India, the Ministry of Environment and Forests is already functioning as the competent authority and the focal point.

- (v) A Secretariat is proposed to be set up under the UN Environment Programme to help countries implement various provisions of the Convention. India is obliged to contribute to this Secretariat 0.37 per cent of the estimated expenditure which comes to about Rs. 30,000 per annum. The Secretariat will help countries, who are party to the Convention to provide technical help, information and training to implement the convention.

Economic Plan for Assam

1102. SHRI ANAND SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special economic plan is being chalked out for Assam; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the plan and the schemes and programmes included therein and the target fixed in this regard?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). The Planning commission has been giving due consideration to the requirements of Assam for its economic development while fixing up its Annual Plan outlays. Recently a Committee has been constituted to take an integral view of the State's development requirements. The Committee is yet to submit its Report.

[*Translation*]

Integrated Child Development Services Scheme In Slum Areas of big Cities

1103. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Integrated Child Development Services (I.C.D.S.) is also being

implemented in the slum areas of big cities;

(b) if so, the names of such cities in Rajasthan where the said scheme has been implemented;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in Jaipur to identify such children and pregnant women who deserve benefit from the scheme of nutritious food for children; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to conduct a survey in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of cities in Rajasthan implementing ICDS Projects are as below:-

1. Alwar
2. Ajmer
3. Bharatpur
4. Bhilwara
5. Jaipur
6. Jodhpur
7. Kota
8. Pali
9. Tonk
10. Udaipur

(2 Projects)
