

(c) Although there has been some improvement in bilateral exchanges in the fields of Culture, Education, Science and Technology, it has been Government of India's consistent policy that genuine normalisation of India-China relations can only be achieved when an overall, comprehensive and full settlement of the Boundary Question is achieved.

Consensus at Thimpu Talks

532. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :
SHRI P. R. KUMARA-
MANGALAM :
SHRI KALI PRASAD
PANDEY :
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
PATIL :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR
MANDAL :

Will the minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any consensus was arrived at the Thimpu talks to settle the issue of the Tamil settlers in Sri Lanka ;

(b) whether attacks on the life and property of the Tamil in Sri Lanka continue unabated ;

(c) whether the inflow of refugees is also continuing and if so, their number till date ; and

(d) Government's reaction in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) As a result of violations of the ceasefire arrangements, violence has continued in Sri Lanka and the lives and property of many Tamil people have been affected.

(c) The inflow of refugees is still continuing. According to information received from authorities in Tamil Nadu the present number of refugees is 1,22,243.

(d) Government are seriously concerned with the continuing influx of refugees into India which is caused by the violence inside Sri Lanka and particularly the

indiscriminate actions of the Sri Lanka security forces. Government deplores this continued cycle of violence. Government's efforts have been directed towards ensuring an effective ceasefire in Sri Lanka to create a climate conducive for negotiations towards a political solution of the crisis.

"Afforestation during Seventh Five Year Plan"

533. SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for afforestation in 4 lakhs acres of land under the Seventh Five Year Plan and in 45 lakh acres or land under social forestry;

(b) whether apart from the Department of Forests the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has also formulated any plan for afforestation;

(c) if so, in which regions of the country; and

(d) whether Chhota Nagpure, Monghyr and Daltenganj in Bihar are covered by that plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) The target for afforestation is 5 million hectares per year.

(b) The afforestation work being done by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is also a part of the target mentioned in reply to (a) above. The Department of Rural Development have issued instructions that a minimum of 20% of the funds allotted under the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLGEP) should be utilised for afforestation.

(c) and (b). These Programmes cover the entire country.

"Naming of Betla National Park Palamau as Indira Gandhi National Park"

534. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :