

Discussions between Foreign Ministers of India and U.S.S.R.

727. SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. M. R. Gromyko, had recently visited India to discuss the prospects of Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation with him;

(b) if so, the results of the discussions held and the decisions taken;

(c) how far this meeting would strengthen further Indo-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation; and

(d) whether any new programmes for Cooperation between the two countries in future have been formulated and if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) to (d). The Foreign Minister of USSR, Mr. A. A. Gromyko visited India from April 25 to 27, 1977, at the invitation of the Government of India. During his talks with the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs, the two sides reiterated their desire not only to preserve the traditional friendship and cooperation between India and USSR, but to strengthen it further in the spirit of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation.

During the visit, the following agreements on bilateral cooperation were signed:

(i) Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation;

(ii) Agreement on cooperation in the establishment of Troposcatter Communication Link (for the establishment of reliable telegraph and telephone communication between the two countries);

(iii) Agreement on the mutual exchange of goods for the year 1977

Solution of Unemployment Problem

728. SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Janata Party leaders and Ministers are giving assurances to people to solve the unemployment problem in three years; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b). Government has stated that it would remove destitution within a time frame of 10 years and that it would follow an employment-oriented strategy in which primacy would be given to the development of agriculture, agro-industries, small and cottage industries specially in rural areas. High priority would also be given to the provisions of minimum needs in the rural areas and to integrated rural development.

F.I.C.I. Plan to solve Unemployment Problem

729. SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry's plan of solving the unemployment problem within 10 years; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b). Presumably the reference is to the Theme Paper entitled 'Towards a Prosperous Society' prepared by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry on the occa-

recently in New Delhi. In pursuance of its declared objective to eradicate destitution within a time frame of 10 years, Government will no doubt take into account all available information and suggestions for the achievement of this objective.

Rated Capacity of Salem Steel Plant

730. SHRI R. KOLANTHAIVELU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress in respect of the Salem Steel Plant;

(b) the rated capacity of the plant and the expected time of commencement of production;

(c) whether the project is going according to schedule; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the remedial action taken?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) In March, 1977, Government approved the first stage of Salem Steel Project involving an investment of Rs. 126.61 crores.

Necessary preparatory work and infra-structure facilities for the first stage of the project have been almost completed. Expenditure on the project so far amounts to Rs. 13.30 crores.

Offers have been received from international stainless steel makers for supply of production know-how.

(b) The rated capacity of the first stage of the plant is expected to be 3,000 tonnes of cold rolled stainless steel flat products per year. Production is expected to commence towards the end of 1981.

(c) All possible measures are being taken to complete the project according to schedule.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Techno-Economic Treaties with Foreign Countries for Economic Development

731. SHRI R. KOLANTHAIVELU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the precise developments in respect of Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation following recent visit of Mr. Gromyko;

(b) whether arrangements and agreements made are conducive to increased techno-economic support from Soviet Union; and

(c) whether in view of the success of the Treaty, Government propose to have similar treaties with other Powers so as to ensure increased techno-economic support for our economic development?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) and (b). During the visit of Mr. A. A. Gromyko, Foreign Minister of USSR, to India from April 25 to 27, 1977, the two sides reiterated their desire not only to preserve the traditional friendship and cooperation between India and USSR, but to strengthen it further in the spirit of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation. The following agreements on bilateral co-operation were concluded during the visit:

(i) Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation;

(ii) Agreement on cooperation in the establishment of Troposcatter Communication Link (for the establishment of reliable telegraph and telephone communication between the two countries);

(iii) Agreement on the mutual exchange of goods for the year 1977.

(c) Government of India will continue to develop relations of friendship and co-operation with all countries