

Free Trade Area (SAFTA) preferably by 2000 A.D. and latest by 2005 A.D. Two rounds of tariff preference negotiations under SAPTA have made a good beginning. Economic cooperation in areas of intra-regional investment promotion and protection, avoidance of double taxation, customs cooperation has also been initiated. Technical cooperation has been pursued through 11 technical committees covering areas of agriculture, communications, environment and meteorology, rural development, science and technology etc. In the social field, significant progress has taken place in the consideration of the theme of poverty alleviation, youth, disabled, literacy and children, with particular emphasis on the girl child.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal to extend the scope of SAARC to establish a common market or a common currency among SAARC member-states.

[Translation]

#### Flood Control

1486. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any schemes was formulated a by the Prime Minister for implementing the declaration made by him in the last Session of Lok Sabha with regard to action plan to deal with the problem of flood control after studying the flood affected areas of Eastern India, Rajasthan and Agra and Mathura areas of Uttar Pradesh with the help of team of flood experts which included the experts of Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan Governments have also submitted any short term and long term schemes to the expert Committee and the Union Government to control floods;

(d) if so, the detailed opinion of the Expert Committee and the Government thereof; and

(e) the detailed action taken by the Government on the report of the Expert Committee?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Ministry of Water Resources has constituted five Regional Task Forces on 30th September, 1996 with participation of senior level officers of Central as well as State Governments to examine regional flood problems, review existing remedial measures and to recommend measures for comprehensive solutions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Task Forces are required to submit their report within six months. The first meeting of the Regional Task Forces will be held shortly.

[English]

#### Regulatory Board for Privatization of Ports

1487. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALE :  
SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the progress made on major projects under private sector and proposals under consideration particularly in Maharashtra for development of ports;

(b) whether the Government propose to create a Regulatory Board for promoting investment by private sector for the development of ports in the country; and

(c) if so, the details and present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) A list of projects for which approval for private sector participation stands given in the enclosed Statement. These include the major ports of Bombay and Jawaharlal Nehru in Maharashtra.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### STATEMENT

##### List of Approved Private Sector Participation Projects

##### Leasing of Existing Berths/Assets of the Port

1. Leasing of berth No. 6 at Kandla Port to M/s. Geepee Corporation limited, Bangkok for handling bulk and break bulk cargoes.
2. Madras Port Trust has entered into a long term berth reservation agreement with M/s. Bengal Tiger Lines.
3. Leasing of berths at Haldia Dock Complex to Steel Authority of India Limited and TISCO.
4. Bombay Port Trust entered into an agreement with M/s. American President Lines for use of berth No. 1, Indra Dock Complex.
5. Leasing of NS Dry Docks 1 and 2 with adjacent lands and wet berths etc. to M/s. Chowkhani Shipyard (Bengal) Limited for ship repair facilities at Calcutta Port.

##### Creation of Storage Facilities/Warehouses

6. Leasing of land to M/s. SPIC for storage and despatch of LPG in Tuticorin Port.
7. Leasing of land to M/s. Suraj Agro Private Limited at Madras Port for creation of storage facilities for non-hazardous liquid bulk cargo.
8. Leasing of land to M/s. Ganesh Benzoplast Limited for creation of storage facilities for Class "B" and "C" liquid chemicals.

9. Leasing of land to M/s. Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited for creation of storage facilities for Class "B" and "C" Liquid Chemicals.
10. Land has been leased to various parties at various major ports for creation of new storage facilities/warehouses.
11. Leasing of Transit Shed at Visakhapatnam Port to M/s. Tinnu Oils and Chemicals Limited, Bombay for setting up mechanical cargo handling facilities, etc.

#### **Creation of Dry Dock, ship Repair Facilities and ship Breaking**

12. Setting up a floating dry dock and ship repair facilities at Mormugao Port by M/s. Western Indian Shipyard Limited.
13. Setting up of ship repair facilities at Madras Port by M/s. Chowkhani International Limited.
14. Land allotted to M/s. Western India Maritime Division for setting up of Ship Breaking Yard.

#### **Leasing of Equipment by Port from Private Sector**

15. Container Handling equipment taken on lease by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust.
16. Container handling equipment at Bombay Port.
17. Hiring of Tugs at Visakhapatnam Port.

#### **Capital Dredging From Funds Provided by Oil Companies**

18. Capital Dredging at New Mangalore Port Trust funded by M/s. MRPL.

#### **Creation of Fresh Berths**

19. Creation of crude handling and POL product facilities for M/s. MRPL's Refinery at New Mangalore Port. Funding of project arranged by M/s. MRPL through SCICI.
20. Virtual jetty by IOC at Kandla.
21. Virtual jetty by HPCL at Kandla.
22. Approval to M/s. Reliance for construction of Asia Bulk Terminal off Goa Coast.
23. Liquid jetty at Kandla through IFFCO.
24. Creation of LPG facility at New Mangalore Port through HPCL.
25. Creation of off shore stackyard and berth (OSB) off Mormugao Coast.

#### **Issues with Bangladesh**

1488. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :  
SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the bilateral issues pending for discussion with Bangladesh;

(b) whether he had discussed those issues during his last visit to Dhaka;

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, issue-wise;

(d) whether any high level talks are proposed to be held to settle the bilateral issues pending since long; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) The outstanding issues with Bangladesh pending for settlement include sharing of waters of the major common rivers, repatriation of Chakma refugees to Bangladesh, illegal immigration from Bangladesh, insurgency-related developments and further expansion of cultural commercial and economic cooperation including transport linkages. The Government remains committed to the maintenance of friendly and cooperative relations with Bangladesh.

(b) and (c). The External Affairs Minister visited Dhaka from September 6-9, 1996. All issues in our bilateral relations were discussed. To further promote Indo-Bangladesh trade, the External Affairs Minister, while in Dhaka, announced that the Government would grant fourteen categories of exports from Bangladesh 50% tariff concessions across the board. It was also decided to expedite action on demarcation of the land boundary and exchange of enclaves. On the Chakma issue, in response to an invitation conveyed by India, the Bangladesh side has conveyed that a high-powered delegation would visit Tripura to interact with the refugees and encourage them to return to their homes. The two sides have agreed to further strengthen cooperation in border management and to curb undesirable activities. A Joint Committee of Experts has been formed to look into the issue of sharing of Ganga waters and both sides have reiterated their intention of arriving at an agreement on a fair and equitable sharing before the onset of the next dry season.

(d) and (e). Shri Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister of West Bengal is visiting Dhaka from November 27 to December 1, 1996. On behalf of the Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister, during his visit to Dhaka, has extended an invitation to the Bangladesh Prime Minister to visit India.

#### **Crash of IAF Fighter Aircrafts**

1489. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY :  
DR. M. JAGANNATH :  
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :  
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :  
SHRI PINAKI MISRA :  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a MIG aircraft of the IAF had crashed near Neraiti of Sonipur district, Assam in October 1996;