

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the Press report; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJARAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The news report is not correct.

[Translation]

Private Sector in Road Development

1371. KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to encourage private companies to participate in road development projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above mentioned scheme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c). Yes, Madam. The Government has decided to involve private sector in road construction on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. Necessary amendment in the National Highways Act, 1956 for allowing private sector participation in the development of National Highways has already been carried out in June, 1995 for the purpose and the scheme is already in implementation stage.

[English]

Enrolment Capacity of Kendriya Vidyalaya System

1372. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of schools sanctioned, number of posts of teachers and enrolment capacity of the Kendriya Vidyalaya system during the academic year 1995-96, State-wise; and

(b) the total number of teachers actually in service and the total number of students actually on the rolls during the academic year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b). There were a total 838 Kendriya Vidyalayas during 1995-96 including 22 New Kendriya Vidyalayas opened during 1995-96.

As against sanctioned strength of 34,065, 31,017 teachers were in position during 1995-96

Information regarding enrolment capacity and actual number of Students enrolled during 1995-96 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

National Malaria Eradication Programme

1373. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Governments of Assam and Maharashtra have submitted a proposal to the Union Government for application of the National Malaria Eradication Programme in the States including tribal and hilly areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c). The National Malaria Eradication Programme (NMEP) is already in operation throughout the country including Assam and Maharashtra with increased input in tribal and hilly areas.

100% Central assistance under NMEP is already being provided to the State of Assam since December 1994 which covers the whole of Assam including tribal and hill areas of the State. Maharashtra State is being assisted under the National Malaria Eradication Programme on a 50:50 sharing basis between the Central and State Government.

Besides, for the purpose of intensification of Malaria Control Activities in the tribal areas of seven peninsula States including Maharashtra, a Malaria Control Project for obtaining external assistance in currently under formulation.

AIDS Control

1374. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Health Organisation are providing assistance to control AIDS in the country;

(b) if so, the assistance received during the last three years from each of the organisation;

(c) the amount released to the State Government during the above period, State-wise;

(d) the percentage of annual allocation utilized over these years;

(e) the reasons for failure to ensure better utilization of WHO funds;

(f) whether the Government are aware that in Mumbai, cases of Toxoplasma (brain lesions) are occurring more frequently as compared with other parts of the world; and

(g) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (e). The World Health Organisation had agreed to provide Technical assistance estimated as US \$ 1.5 million for the AIDS Prevention and Control programme currently under implementation throughout the country, over a period of five year (1992-97). The World Health Organisation, under this assistance, provides National and international consultancy, equipment and material for implementation of the programme.

(f) The occurrence of Toxoplasma in Mumbai is more frequent than in any other part of the country. The data relating to other countries the world over is not available for comparison.

(g) The toxoplasma is one of the opportunistic infections of HIV/AIDS. For the prevention and Control AIDS, a comprehensive programme is currently being implemented throughout the country including Mumbai.

Relations with South-East Asian Countries

1375. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to strengthen further the relations with South-East Asian countries during the last two years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, countries-wise?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details country-wise are attached in the given statement.

STATEMENT

Regional

At the regional level, India is currently a Full Dialogue Partner of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and has been invited to participate in the deliberations of the ASEAN Regional Forum which was created to discuss peace and security related issues in the region. EAM is currently in Jakarta to attend the meetings connected with the ASEAN and ARF.

Singapore

1. The then PM Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao visited Singapore in September 1994. During the visit, 12 corporate agreements and an MoU on Foreign Office Consultations were signed. A business delegation also visited Singapore during his visit.

2. PM Goh Chok Tong of Singapore visited Calcutta in January 1995 to attend the centenary celebrations of Confederation of Indian Industries (CCI). During his visit, he also had useful bilateral meetings with PM

Rao. An agreement on Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology was signed.

3. At the invitation of Prime Minister Rao, Senior Minister and former PM of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew visited India in January 1996.

4. Singapore has emerged as the 4th largest investor in India in 1995 according to FDI approvals. (Source : (SIA))

5. Projects in the pipeline involving Singapore companies include the Bangalore information Technology Park, Bangalore International Airport project etc.

6. Singapore Government had taken the initiative in holding the first-ever Global Indian Entrepreneurs Conference (GIEC) from June 19-21, 1996 bringing together Indian and Indian origin business people from across the globe. Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram, visited Singapore from June 19-20 and delivered the keynote address at the GIEC. During the visit, he also met the Singapore Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Information Minister.

7. An Exhibition titled "Alamkara - 5000 years of India" was jointly inaugurated by the HRD Minister Shri Arjun Singh and BG George Yeo, the Singapore Cultural Minister in July 1994. An executive programme for the years 1996-98 for cooperation in the field of Arts, Culture & Archives is under consideration.

Malaysia

1. The then Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao visited Kuala Lumpur in August 1995. This visit gave a fresh impetus to bilateral economic relations. A 25-member business delegation accompanied the Prime Minister. Several MoUs and Agreements were signed and new areas of bilateral cooperation identified.

2. Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia has been recently awarded the Jawahar Lal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 1994.

3. Minister of International Trade and Industry Dato Seri Rafidah Aziz visited India in April 1995 for bilateral consultations and to identify new areas of cooperation.

4. Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs visited Kuala Lumpur in May 1996 for bilateral consultations during which he called on Foreign Minister Badawi.

5. Commerce Secretary visited Malaysia during March 1996. Apart from meeting Malaysia's business community, he delivered the keynote address in a seminar jointly organised by FICCI and its Malaysian counterpart.

Thailand

1. H.E. Banham Silpa-archa, prime Minister of Thailand will pay an official visit in September this year.

2. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand is likely to visit Union Territory of A&N in December 1996.