

India in November 1980. India is setting up 21 Pilot Projects in Burma and sharing with her the facilities available in our higher technological and research institutions.

**China:** Government of India's policy regarding its relations with China have been reiterated on February 16, 1981 in the President's Address to Parliament as follows:

"Our willingness to further normalise our relations with China and to discuss all outstanding problems has been made clear repeatedly. We hope the Chinese will demonstrate their willingness to reciprocate."

India has been consistently striving towards this. Since the last session of Parliament, under an understanding arrived at between the two Governments, there has been an exchange of Press correspondents in each other's capitals. There have also been functional exchanges in various fields such as agriculture, education, science and technology and sports.

**Sri Lanka:** India-Sri Lanka relations continue to be warm and cordial. There have been promising signs of increased economic cooperation over the coming years. In January, 1981, an agreement was signed as a result of which Sri Lanka entrepreneurs are increasingly becoming aware of India's capabilities in the industrial sector. A credit of Rs. 100 million has been made available to Sri Lanka, which is to be utilised to purchase from India, motor spares, transport equipment, railway equipment and spares, among others/items.

**Afghanistan:** Relations between India and Afghanistan continue to be marked by traditionally close friendship and cordiality.

**Pakistan:** It is Government's firm belief that friendly relations between India and Pakistan are important for the well-being of the people of the two countries and are also a major factor in establishing peace and stability in the region. Therefore, as the

Prime Minister has indicated in her recent letter to the President of Pakistan "guiding these relations on constructive lines was not only a vital responsibility of our two Governments but also an imperative necessity for the progress and prosperity of the two peoples". Several concrete steps have been taken in the direction of normalising relations with Pakistan. Government have held high level dialogues with Government of Pakistan. Efforts have been made to promote trade, cultural exchanges and people to people contacts.

**Nepal:** Close and continuing contacts are maintained with Nepal through high level bilateral discussions and exchange of delegations. These contacts and exchange of views have been marked by a high degree of both cordiality and frankness in consonance with the traditionally close and friendly relations between India and Nepal. Indian assistance to Nepal has covered practically every field of economic development and India continues to assist in implementation of development programmes in Nepal.

**Bhutan:** Frequent high level delegations and visits are arranged between India and Bhutan. The latest was the visit of the King of Bhutan to India in January, 1981. India contributed approximately Rs. 70 crores to Bhutan's Fourth Five Year Plan, which is coming to an end in March, 1981.

#### **Plans for expansion of cancer treatment facilities during Sixth Plan**

578. SHRI TRIDIB CHOUDHURI:  
SHRI R. PRABHU:

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

(a) the plans of Government for expanding cancer treatment facilities in the country and opening regional centres for this purpose during the Sixth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the location of the proposed regional centres; and

(c) whether work has already started for the building of any of these centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) to (c). The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare afford Central assistance to the State Governments/Union Territories and voluntary institutions engaged in the field of Cancer Research and Treatment for (1) setting up of Early Cancer Detection Centres, (ii) the installation of Cobalt Therapy Units; and (iii) for developing Regional Cancer Centres. In addition to the 4 existing Regional Centres at Calcutta, Madras, New Delhi and Bombay, this Ministry has since decided to recognise the existing Cancer Centres at Gwalior, Ahmedabad Trivandrum, Cuttack, Gauhati and Bangalore and develop them as Regional Centres during the Sixth Five Year Plan. Services are already being provided at the aforesaid six centres. This Ministry is committed to afford them suitable financial assistance for their enlargement and development as Regional Centres.

#### Transshipment facilities at Katihar

579. SHRI D. L. BAITHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to expand the facilities of transshipment at Katihar on N. F. Railways; and

(b) if so, the main features of the expansion scheme of transshipment together with the cost involved in the scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIK-ARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) A transshipment platform with BG and NG sidings 350 metres long is proposed to be provided at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.00 lakhs.

#### Late running of trains in Katihar-Jogbani and Barauni-Katihar section

580. SHRI D. L. BAITHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Katihar—Jogbani section to Northeast Frontier Railway and Barauni-Katihar section of North Eastern Railway, it is difficult to maintain punctuality of trains;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and number of days on which the passenger trains arrived late on these sections, train-wise and date-wise, with the reasons thereof and the steps taken thereon;

(c) the number of steam and diesel locomotives in the Northeast Frontier Railway and North Eastern Railway, Division-wise;

(d) whether the required number of spare parts for the repair of locomotives are neither supplied by the stores nor made available through purchase from market; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the working of trains on these sections?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIK-ARJUN): (a), (b) and (e). No. However, the punctuality performance of passenger trains 'Not losing Time' on North Eastern and Northeast Frontiers Railways including Barauni-Katihar and Katihar-Jogbani sections has not been satisfactory and was around 75 per cent. Running of these trains was affected adversely mainly on account of increased incidences of alarm chain pulling, disconnection of hose-pipes, public/staff agitations, engine failures/defects, conversion work etc.

The punctual running of trains is being watched closely at all levels. Avoidable detentions are taken up immediately and remedial/punitive action taken to improve the running of trains. Liaison is being maintained