

Eco Mark labelling, and has also commissioned a study to survey the demand of eco-friendly products in the market.

CTBT

6209. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether during US President's recent visit to Bijing, the US and China called upon India and Pakistan to enter into firm commitments not to weaponise or deploy nuclear weapons and missiles capable of delivering them and also demanding that both India and Pakistan desist from further nuclear tests and sign CTBT unconditionally;

(b) whether the US and China also offered to assist in the implementation of confidence building measures between India and Pakistan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government has stated that it was most ironical that two countries who have directly and indirectly contributed to the unabated proliferation of nuclear weapons and delivery systems in our neighbourhood should now be presuming to prescribe norms for non-proliferation. Government has also made it clear that India cannot consider suggestions contained in the statement for curtailing our nuclear weapon or missile development programmes and decisions in this regard would be taken on the basis of its own national security requirements. Government have announced that India will observe a voluntary moratorium and refrain from conducting further tests. We are now prepared to move forward on discussing the CTBT.

Technical Knowledge

6210. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Germany has offered India technical knowledge in agricultural implements, food processing, dairy products and poultry;

(b) if so, whether a high level German delegation visited India;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the details of the agreements signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) An agro-industries delegation from Germany led by Dr. Franz - Josef Fieter, State Secretary in German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry visited India from 23rd to 28th March, 1998. The

emphasis of the visit was on the possibilities of collaboration in the areas of agriculture and agro-industries. During the visit, the German delegation held meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture, Planning Commission and other organisations including the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

During the meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture, both the sides underlined the positive developments in bilateral economic relations between the two countries and their interest in further intensification of cooperation in the field of agriculture, namely mechanisation of small farms and import of equipment from Germany, reduction in post harvest losses through joint ventures and aid programmes etc., fisheries, agricultural engineering, horticulture crops, animal sciences and technical guidance for upgradation of rabbit farming, cooperation in packaging, fruit and vegetable processing, meat and meat products and setting up of cold storage facilities, fish processing etc. It was also proposed to develop a general Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation between the two countries in the field of agriculture and to explore the possibilities of creating a separate Indo-German Working Group for cooperation in the field of agriculture within the framework of the Indo-German Joint Commission on Industrial and Economic Cooperation. However, no specific offer for technical assistance was made by the German side.

(d) No agreement were signed or proposed to be signed during this visit.

Regional Passport Offices

6211. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by the Regional Passport Office at Jammu. J&K for the issue of fresh passport and for renewals during each of the last three years; and

(b) the number of applications disposed off, passport issued, renewed and the number of applications that remained pending during each of these years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) A detailed statement is tabulated below:

Year	Passport Office, Jammu				
	Fresh Passport		Renewals		Pendency
	Applica- tions Received	Passports Issued	Applica- tions Received	Passports Renewed	
1995	10,551	8,893	1,083	960	1,787
1996	13,781	10,630	834	827	3,158
1997	10,694	10,639	964	916	103