

(c) the extent to which India has been able to restore trade ties with Fiji;

(d) whether any agreement in this regard was signed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Fijian Prime Minister had written a letter to our PM in September 1997 inviting India to re-open its mission in Fiji and our agreement in principle to do so was communicated to the Fijian Government. Our Cabinet on June 9th has accorded approval to re-opening of our High Commission in Suva, Fiji. Govt. of India's decision to re-open the resident High Commission in SUVA was conveyed to the Govt. of Fiji and their approval/formal clearance was received on June 25th, 1998.

(c) India-Fiji trade and economic cooperation was suspended from October 1987. Following positive internal developments in Fiji and requests from Fiji-Indians to lift the trade and commercial restrictions, it was decided in Jan, 98 to lift the trade embargo on Fiji.

(d) and (e) Accordingly our Ministry of commerce issued a Public Notice No. 73(PN)/97-02 dated 24.2.98, as also a Press Note announcing lifting of the trade embargo on Fiji.

[English]

Sea Wall

*619. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala and another State have sought any special fund from the Union Government to construct/renovate sea wall to prevent sea erosion; and

(b) if so, the response of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Special Central assistance for emergent conservation of sea coast was sought only by the State of Kerala from the Union Government. In response to a request received in February 1995 an amount of Rs. 3 crore was released by Planning Commission to Government of Kerala in Feb '96 as a one time measure for emergent conservation of sea coast in the districts of Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Trissur. Again, a request received in Planning Commission from the State of Kerala during August, 1996 for special central assistance of Rs. 22.55 crore was found to be essentially for maintenance works and therefore the State was advised to meet this requirement from non-plan funds of the State.

Indo-Pak Relations

*620. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the serious implications of the deliberations of the UN Security Council on India-Pakistan relations with special emphasis on J&K;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent J&K being internationalised to India's detriment and in derogation of India's established and successful policy for several decades;

(c) whether the Government have made efforts to ensure the efficacy of the Shimla Agreement is not undermined; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Government's views on the UN Security Council Resolution, wherein a reference has been made to Kashmir, have been made known on a number of occasions. In response to the reference to J&K in that Resolution, the Prime Minister informed this august House on 8 June, 1998 that "Hon'ble Members have expressed strong reservations against attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue. There is simply no question of India ever agreeing to such internationalisation".

Government remain firmly committed to the Simla Agreement, under which India and Pakistan are to settle their differences by peaceful means through bilateral negotiations. There is no place for any third party involvement of any nature whatsoever in the process of direct bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan. This policy of the Government has been reiterated through official statements as also in interaction with all concerned at the political and diplomatic levels.

Reservoirs

*621. SHRI VAIKO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the loss of rain and flood water flowing waste into sea due to lack of reservoir facility in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to construct reservoirs in various parts of the country using latest technology for storing rain and flood water for multipurpose use;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and

(e) the time by which the scheme for construction of reservoirs is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) As per assessment made by Central Water Commission, the country