

were held;

- (b) If so, to what extent the talks were successful;
- (c) whether any agreement on nuclear issues were reached between the two countries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On November 9-10, 1998 India and the United States held discussions on export control issues as a part of the on-going bilateral dialogue process aimed at bringing about a normalisation of bilateral relations. During these discussions India conveyed its concerns regarding restrictions on access to dual-use technologies, equipment for civilian applications, including in the nuclear energy sector. The discussions led to a better appreciation of India's commitment to non-proliferation, reflected in its effective system of export controls.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Soyabean Crop

1798. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 50 percent crop of soyabean in Madhya Pradesh was destroyed during the sowing season and remaining half of the crop was destroyed due to the failure of rain during this year;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to provide any assistance to the farmers; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported that despite the sporadic pattern of rainfall during July and August, 1998, the Soyabean crop was saved to a greater extent. Soyabean was sown in 42.81 lakh hectares area in 1997-98 and the estimated area under soyabean in 1998-99 is about 44.81 lakh hectares. As against the estimated production of 49.19 lakh tonnes of Soyabean during 1997-98, the estimated production during 1998-99 is 51.50 lakh tonnes.

Water Management

1799. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL:

SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the water resources are shrinking rapidly in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted by the Union Government to explore water resources during 1997-98 in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) On an average the total water resources availability in the country remains the same. However, per capita availability of fresh water is shrinking due to increase in population, rapid industrialisation and urbanisation. At the time of Independence, the per capita water availability in the country was over 5000 cubic meters per year which has now fallen to about 2200 cubic metres per year.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Infrastructure Projects

1800. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to monitor the private sector infrastructure projects costing Rs.100 crore and above; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the nodal agency for the purpose alongwith the areas identified for surveillance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The Department of Programme Implementation has been identified as the Nodal Agency. To start with, private/joint sector infrastructure projects in the Civil Aviation, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Mines, Power, Telecommunications and Surface Transport Sectors Would be taken up for monitoring.

Conference on Disarmament

1801. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the 61-nation Conference on Disarmament, including India, has agreed to hold negotiations on the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty which envisages blanket ban on production of materials used to make nuclear arms;
- (b) if so, whether any concrete measures in this regard have been worked out; and
- (c) the time by which the Committee is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) On August 11, 1998, the Conference on Disarmament,