

Abderrahmane El Youssoufi of Morocco. Views were exchanged on important global and regional issues, and on ways and means to further expand and diversify bilateral cooperation. The discussions revealed similarity of approach on most issues. Morocco also expressed understanding for our concerns.

During the visit, a Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement, a Tourism Cooperation Agreement and an Agreement between Press Trust of India (PTI) and Maghreb Arab Press (MAP) for mutual professional cooperation, were signed.

[*Translation*]

#### **Central Assistance**

2230. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide Central assistance to Uttaranchal to achieve the targets announced by the Hon. Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the time by which the Central assistance is likely to be provided;

(c) whether such proposals has also been received from Uttar Pradesh asking for this assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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) to (d) The Government of Uttar Pradesh have been highlighting the economic backwardness of the Uttaranchal region and requesting for Additional Central Assistance for the region.

Special Central Assistance (SCA) under the Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) is being provided to benefit the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh. During 1998-99, Rs. 237.41 crore were sanctioned as SCA under HADP. Also, Additional Central Assistance (ACA) of Rs. 100 crore has been provided during 1998-99 to augment the HADP to benefit Uttaranchal region.

[*English*]

#### **Contaminated Milk**

2231. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) whether Consumer Education and Research Society, Ahmedabad has found all the widely sold brands of milk distributed in polypacks as contaminated with health-threatening bacteria; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Health and Family Welfare Department of Government of Gujarat has stated that one leading brand and one sample drawn from milk selling shop was found to contain *Staphylococcus Aurous*. The State Government has further stated that the samples are being tested microbiologically at Food and Drugs Laboratory, Baroda. Dairy premises is being inspected by Food Inspectors to ensure Hygienic conditions prevailing at the places of collection, storage, production and distribution of the milk to ensure its quality.

#### **Review of Deep Sea Fishing Policy**

2232. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the Deep Sea Fishing Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any committee has been constituted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Action has been initiated to constitute an Expert Committee to formulate a Comprehensive Policy for Marine Fisheries.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.