

**High Level US Delegation**

\*8. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :  
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether high level US delegation led by Bill Richardson visited India and had meeting with various leaders;

(b) if so, the issues discussed;

(c) whether test firing of Ghauri missile and development of Ghaznavi with nuclear warhead by Pakistan and with Chinese assistance came up for talks;

(d) if so, the response of US Government thereto;

(e) whether US delegation promised to take up this issue with Islamabad;

(f) whether India propose to counter the Pakistan missile threat; and

(g) if so, the manner in which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (g) A delegation led by Ambassador Bill Richardson, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the UN visited India from April 14-15, 1998. Delegation level talks were held in the Ministry of External Affairs. The US delegation also called on the Prime Minister, Home Minister, Defence Minister and Minister of State for External Affairs.

The visit of the delegation was in the context of the broad-based dialogue in which the United States and India have been engaged over the last several months. During their several meetings in Delhi, many aspects of Indo-US bilateral relations as well as regional and global issues were discussed.

Since the visit of the US delegation came soon after Pakistan's claim of having test-fired and intermediate range missile dubbed "Ghauri", this development was also discussed. The US side referred to its statement regretting the missile test. It also urged India to continue to exercise restraint, and conveyed that the delegation would discuss the missile test during its visit to Islamabad. It was conveyed from our side that the testing of the Ghauri missile was not an isolated event, but part of Pakistan's on-going programme to acquire missile capability with external assistance. As on earlier occasions, it was further conveyed that Government will continue to monitor developments that have a bearing on India's security environment.

Government will take all steps necessary to ensure national security in an effective and timely manner. India has an Integrated Guided Missile Development programme

on missiles of various range and capabilities, work on which is continuing with high priority.

**Water Crisis**

\*9. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :  
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a recent UN Report in which it has been stated that India is heading towards water crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) In a Report jointly brought out by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) titled "Fresh water for India Children and Nature" (April, 1998), it is indicated that progressive reduction in per capita availability of fresh water in India will lead to water scarcity by 2003 AD and water stress by 2013 AD.

(c) and (d) Any situation of water availability of less than 1000 cubic metres per capita is considered as scarcity condition. As per assessment made by the Central Water Commission, the total annual renewable fresh water available in India is 1869 billion cubic metres and the per capita water availability for different years are as under :-

Year	Per capita water availability (in cubic metres)
1991	2213
1996	2000
2000	1875
2016	1479

There is, therefore, a decreasing trend in the per capita water availability due to increase in population and rapid growth in urbanisation and industrialisation. However, as indicated above, the per capita water availability by the end of year 2016 AD on an average for the country as a whole will still be higher than 1000 cubic metres and as such India would not be facing water scarcity by the year 2013 AD. Keeping in view the future needs of water, the Government has taken various policy and programme initiatives. These include adoption of National Water Policy (1987), preparation of National Perspectives for transfer of Water from surplus basins to water deficit areas, water management practices promoting efficient and economic