

carried out. For this, the services of the software industry from the Region should be utilised.

7. In order to spread the information Technology education amongst the masses, including the schools, translation of the relevant course material should be carried out in the regional languages using MMIT.

8. Apart from the developing products and technologies, customer focus needs to be brought in for serving the user interests.

9. Standardisation of various scripts, unification of coding sets of similar languages, standardisation of terminology on computer in various languages, and Multimedia components, are an important prerequisite for faster spread of Multilingual Technologies and their cross migration among various applications and countries. A SAARC Task Force may be set up for proper co-ordination of this activity.

10. To enable deeper penetration of MMIT, recourse should be made to the internet for putting results on development in this area and information on cooperation efforts in the public domain for the benefit of all concerned. This may also promote evolution of common networking languages.

11. With the internet and needs developing in this area among SAARC countries, it was felt that such Conferences should be held every year by rotation among SAARC nations, which may also review progress on recommendations.

12. An annual SAARC MMIT award may be instituted in the Region for recognising commendable performance in this area.

[Translation]

National Rehabilitation Policy

*307. SHRIGAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUIJ BISEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to formulate a National Rehabilitation Policy for the oustees of major and medium irrigation projects of the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the policy is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) There is at present no National Resettlement Rehabilitation Policy. However, in the year 1980, the then Union Ministry of Irrigation had issued directives to all the States regarding rehabilitation of displaced persons due to major reservoir projects. Programmes for resettlement and

rehabilitation of persons affected by reservoir projects are presently carried out by the State Governments/project authorities as an integral part of the project based on their own policies which vary from State to State and Project to Project. Steps have been initiated for adopting a National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation of persons affected by reservoir projects to get over the shortcomings in the implementation of resettlement and rehabilitation programmes. A draft policy document in this regard has been prepared by the National Water Board for consideration of the National Water Resources Council. However, the consideration/adoption of the said Policy by the National Water Resources Council depends on further modifications, if considered necessary, after the "National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation of persons or families adversely affected or displaced on account of compulsory acquisition of land" and "Amendment to the Land Acquisition Act, 1894" presently under consideration by the Government is finalised in consultation with the States and various voluntary organisations.

Fish Production

*308. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO :

DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that despite vast potential of fisheries in the country, those engaged in it are not getting the full benefit of it due to lack of technical know-how;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to educate those engaged in fisheries about its technical aspects so that better production could be achieved; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Several steps have been taken by Government to disseminate technical details on fisheries and training to those working in the Fisheries Sector so that they can strive to achieve higher production. These steps, *inter-alia*, include training programmes for personnel engaged in fisheries, preparation of literature in simple language and its dissemination, establishment of demonstration-cum-training centres, dissemination of information through audio-visual media, etc.

Training of fishermen and fish farmers in modern aquaculture practices is one of the main components of the Schemes "Development of Freshwater Aquaculture" and "Integrated Coastal Aquaculture". The training activities under these schemes are made available to fish farmers through a network of 422 Fish Farmers' Development Agencies (FFDA) and 39 Brackishwater Fish Farmers' Development Agencies (BFDA).

About 5.77 lakh fishermen have been trained through FFDA's in freshwater aquaculture practices and about 12000 fishermen have been trained through the BFDA's in shrimp farming since the inception of the scheme.

Apart from the above, a separate Central Sector Scheme on "Training and Extension" is also implemented with the objective of augmenting the availability of qualified manpower for fisheries and broad basing the extension system. The main features of this scheme are:

- Introduction of short-term training programmes for fisheries extension officers and fish farmers on aquaculture, mariculture and other aspects related to fisheries development.
- Upgradation/setting up of training centres with Laboratory and dormitory facilities.
- Bringing out publicity material on different aspects of fisheries for use of fisheries personnel and fishermen/fish farmers.
- Production of video films on fisheries technologies and giving publicity through media.
- Organising and conducting National level workshops, seminars, meetings, etc. for exchange of information and for working out the future strategy.

Since inception of the scheme 5785 fishermen have been trained, 32 training centres were sanctioned for establishment/up-gradation, 72 extension manuals and 2 documentary films were sanctioned for preparation and 16 workshops/seminars/symposia were organised.

Beside the above, four institutes under the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, eight research institutes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and nine Colleges of Fisheries under the State Agricultural Universities are also engaged in human resource development activities for the fisheries sector.

[English]

G-15 Summit

*309. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

Will the MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had a wide ranging bilateral discussions on economic and political issues and matters of mutual interest with several Heads of States attending G-15 Summit;

(b) if so, the total Heads of States with whom the Prime Minister had discussions;

(c) the outcome of the discussions held with each of the Heads of States;

(d) to what extent Indian Government is pursuing the decisions taken in the meeting with Heads of States; and

(e) the issues discussed and final decision arrived at the G-15 Summit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (d) Prime Minister visited Montego Bay for the 9th G-15 Summit. In view of the nature of the programme arranged during this multilateral Conference, it was not feasible to have wide-ranging discussions with other Heads of States/Governments on matters of mutual interest. However, Prime Minister availed of the opportunity to speak with a number of leaders on current issues. These brief exchanges of views between PM and leaders present at the Summit mainly covered the present state of our relations and focussed on the need for greater exchanges and closer bilateral cooperation in various fields. Follow up action in this regard will be taken by the Government.

(e) The G-15 Summit deliberated extensively on issues of concern to developing countries. These included discussions on the current international economic situation in the light of the ongoing financial crisis, establishment of a fair and equitable rule-based multilateral trading system under the WTO, reform of the international monetary and financial architectures, South-South and intra-G-15 cooperation and prospects of undertaking a G-15 – G-8 dialogue. Sri Lanka became a member of G-15 at the Summit bringing the membership to seventeen.

The discussions of the Summit are reflected in the Joint Communique issued at the conclusion of the Summit. Its salient features include a call by G-15 countries to establish an international consultation process for reform of the international financial architecture. The Summit also welcomed India's offer to host an inter-governmental meeting of G-15 countries in preparation for the Third WTO Ministerial Conference. The Joint Communique also called for intensification of intra-G-15 and South-South Cooperation linkages and in this context also supported India's proposal to evolve a new strategic sector approach for South-South Cooperation in sectors like information technology, biotechnology and infrastructure development. Continuation and enhancement of G-15 dialogue with G-8 at all levels on the priority issues on the international economic agenda were also agreed upon.

Employment Opportunities

*310. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :