

(a) the outcome of the talks held by him on various bilateral matters, including trade and defence, with the Soviet and Russian leaders during his recent visit to Moscow;

(b) whether the issue of Kashmir also figured in the talks;

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the Russian President proposed the idea of direct diplomatic ties with India during the talks; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) I was assured by President Gorbachev and other senior Soviet leaders that the USSR stands by all its commitments of India. This was confirmed by President Yeltsin of the Russian Federation.

It has been agreed that a high level multi-disciplinary group from India could visit Moscow in December to meet their counterparts both from the USSR and the Russian Federation with a view to discussing and resolving difficulties that have arisen in different sectors of cooperation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. Some tentative suggestions have been made in this direction. No decisions have been finalised in this regard.

[Translation]

### LPG Agencies at Sasaram and Bhabhua in Bihar

3531. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gas agencies allotted in Sasaram and Bhabhua in Bihar are in accordance with the set norm of setting up of one agency for every 20,000 people;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken so far for setting up of one gas agency for every 20,000 people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (c) As per present policy, LPG distributorships are opened in a phased manner, depending upon the economic viability and product availability, in towns having a population of 20,000 and above (as per 1981 census). Accordingly, an LPG distributorship has been opened at Sasaram.

[English]

### Multi Disciplinary Indian Team to Moscow

3532. SHRI RABI RAY  
DR. C. SILVERA  
SHRI PIUS TIRKEY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Multi Disciplinary Indian Team is scheduled to visit Moscow in the near future;