

does not arise at all. Scientists will do the job anywhere, why to talk of Faizabad alone. If it proves successful there, it will be done at other places also. There is no point in it.

[English]

Talks with the Ukrainian President

*129. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister held any talks with the President of Ukraine during his recent visit to Davos, Switzerland;

(b) if so, the bilateral matters that figured in the talks and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any treaty is going to be signed between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Several ideas for strengthening bilateral cooperation between India and Ukraine, including the visit of the President of Ukraine to India were discussed.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. A Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation is expected to be signed between India and Ukraine. The draft Treaty is under negotiation between the two sides and it would, therefore, not be appropriate to publicise the details at this stage.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, the erstwhile USSR was one of our time-tested friends. USSR has always been helping us. At this point of time when the USSR has disintegrated into different Republics and stays away we should prove that we will be very friendly to the Republics. Ukraine is one of the Republics which is scientifically and technologically advanced. We have been

getting defence equipments mainly from Ukraine. Therefore, may I know whether we will continue with all the agreements we had with the erstwhile USSR, so that we will have a very good friendship with this Republic?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, our Prime Minister met the President Kravchuk in Davos on February 2nd. At this point of time, I want to emphasise that both the leaders and particularly President Kravchuk took a very positive approach in the Indo-Ukraine relations. He went out of his way to assert that the old relationship would continue. In fact, to the extent possible, it would be extended. He was keen to visit India and we are awaiting the induction of visit by him in the near future.

[Translation]

Cattle Development Projects

*130. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank have accorded clearance to Cattle Development Projects in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the places identified in these States for implementing the projects?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has replied that no scheme in India

is being undertaken with the help of the World Bank. I would like to state that recently diplomatic relations between India and Israel have been established and Israel is very advanced in this field. Has the Government any plan to seek any such help from Israel?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Now it is just a beginning. So every thing can be taken up later on. *(Interruptions)*

"Ibtadaye iskha hai Rota hai kya,
Age-age dekhna hota hai kya."

Let us see what happens. If the outcome is negative, we may defer it. But when it is for a good thing, we will acquire it at all costs. There is a couplet in Hindi-

"Uttam vidya lijje, yadyapi kisipe hoi,

Paro pawan thour men kanchan tajat na koī."

SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second question is very important. At present Maharashtra is likely to be affected by severe drought. Large number of cattle heads are likely to fall prey of drought. Farmers are selling their cattle to butchers at throwaway prices. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not an important question and it is not related to the main question.

SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: It is an important question. Is this Government going to give some help to the Maharashtra Government to protect the livestock there *(Interruptions)*

It will be better if he answers this question. *(Interruptions)*

Wheat Production

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*131. **SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI:**
SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of wheat in the country falls short of its requirement;

(b) if so, the extent thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MAL-LAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) To increase the production of wheat, Special foodgrains Production (SFPP) is being implemented in 131 identified districts of 7 major wheat growing states viz. Punjab, Haryana, U. P., Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply, the hon. Minister has said that the country is self-reliant in foodgrains and for that the farmers should be congratulated. But I would like to know why in spite of that 10 lakh tonnes of wheat is being imported. Will it not affect the interests of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no question of affecting the interests of the farmers and it will never be allowed. About importing wheat, we will have to peep into the history. Our predecessors