

(b) if so, the issues that were discussed during the visit and the outcome thereof;

(c) the progress made in regard to resolving the issues of Ganga water sharing and repatriation of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh; and

(d) the outcome of Prime Minister's meeting with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh in Rome recently?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). Mr. Abdus Samad Azad, Bangladesh Foreign Minister visited India from November 8-14, 1996. He called on the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, and Speaker. He also held wide ranging discussions with Minister of External Affairs and also had meetings with Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Water Resources. On the issue of Ganges water sharing, both sides reiterated their intention of arriving at an agreement on a fair and equitable sharing of Ganges water before the onset of next dry season. During the visit it was indicated by our Ministry of Commerce that it is working towards the operationalisation of tariff concessions on a range of items of export interest to Bangladesh by January 1, 1997. It was agreed that the India-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission would meet as early as possible. The issues related to security such as insurgency, illegal immigration, smuggling etc. were raised when Bangladesh Foreign Minister called on Home Minister in Delhi. It was agreed to further strengthen cooperation in border management and to curb undesirable activities. Regarding the repatriation of the Chakma refugees Bangladesh Foreign Minister said that a high-powered delegation would be sent to refugee camps in Tripura to encourage the refugees to return to their homes. It was decided to expedite action on demarcation of the boundary and exchange of enclaves.

(d) During the meeting between our Prime Minister and the Bangladesh Prime Minister on November 17, 1996 at Rome, India-Bangladesh relations were reviewed and it was agreed to take steps to enhance the relations in all areas of interest to both sides.

#### Express Highways

3368. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL :  
DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct Express Highways/Super National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the routes, Highway-wise and State-wise;

(c) the funds earmarked, if any, for the purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d). The National Highways Authority of India, on behalf of the Central Government, had invited global tenders for carrying out feasibility studies for 323 proposed sections of Super National Highways in the country. However, due to paucity of funds for land acquisition it has not been possible to proceed with the scheme.

[Translation]

#### Rani Anwashibai Barghi Dam Project

3369. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire work of Rani Anwashibai Barghi Dam Project in Madhya Pradesh has been completed;

(b) whether proper arrangement for rehabilitation of the people affected from the dam has been made and the amount given for rehabilitation;

(c) whether any remaining schemes are pending for the affected people; and

(d) if so, the time by which the work on these scheme will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Dam and Power House of Rani Avanti Bai Sagar (Barghi Dam Project) have been completed in 1987. The works on the Bargi Left Bank Canal are in progress.

(b) An amount of Rs. 16.52 crores has been paid as compensation for the land to 11,655 land owners whose land has been affected due to submergence. Rehabilitation grant of Rs. 1.48 crores has been distributed to affected families. A plan for Rs. 10.00 crores was approved in April 1988 by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for rehabilitation and resettlement of oustees of the Bargi Dam. The main features of the plan are :

(i) Issue of Identity Cards to project affected persons.

(ii) Rehabilitation grant @ Rs. 2,700/- per family.

(iii) Residential plot of 90 ft. x 60 ft.

(iv) Setting up of schools, dispensaries, market places, ration shop, electricity and water supply arrangements in the resettlement colonies.

(v) Creating opportunities for employment.

(vi) Provision of Government transport for shifting of the belonging to the resettlement colonies, and

(vii) An amount @ 20% of the amount of compensation for house for meeting expenditure on dismantling etc.

(c) and (d). The Scheme is being implemented by the State Government depending upon availability of funds.

[English]

#### Collection Centre at Surat

3370. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :  
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade Surat Collection Centre into a full fledged passport office to avoid the inordinate delay in issue of passport to the persons of the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this likely to be upgraded; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). There is no proposal at present to upgrade the Collection Centre at Surat into a full fledged passport office. The Standing Committee recommendations are that apart from other reasons, there must be at least 50,000 applications for a full fledged office to be opened. The number of applications received from the District of Surat and the contiguous districts of Bharuch, Dang and Valsad in 1995 was only 27,268.

[Translation]

#### Pak's Anti-India Propaganda

3371. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :  
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the High Commission of Pakistan located in Nepal is indulging in anti-India propaganda and also providing protection to the extremists;

(b) whether the Government have taken-up the matter with Nepal; and

(c) if so, the response of Nepal thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). We have received reports that the Pakistani mission in Nepal has been engaging in a number of anti-Indian activities. This matter has been taken up with the Nepalese authorities. During the visit of the Foreign Minister of Nepal to India in August 1996, the subject of security and measures to counter terrorism was discussed. Both sides reiterated their commitment not to allow activities in the territory of either country prejudicial to the security of the other. It was also decided that in order to discourage movement

of undesirable elements across the border, there should be a more effective system of monitoring of movement across the border. Regular exchange of views takes place between concerned authorities in India and Nepal to tackle specific issues.

#### Financial assistance to Maharashtra

3372. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have provided any assistance to the Government of Maharashtra for the procurement of essential medicines and other essential equipments including the Surgical equipments for eliminating paucity of these in many Government Hospitals;

(b) if so, the amount of the assistance provided therefor;

(c) whether the said amount has been properly and fully utilised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Under National Programme for Control of Blindness the following financial assistance was provided to Maharashtra during last three years

Year	Cash Grant for Drugs and consumables.	Commodity (Rs. in lakhs)	
		Sutures	Ophthalmic Equipments.
1994-95	20.00	112.57	15.38
1995-96	39.00	42.21	120.40
1996-97	50.00	Not yet supplied.	

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The centralised purchase has been done by Govt. of India for sutures and ophthalmic equipments and the same is utilised for the purpose for which it was released. Under cash grants the State has utilised a sum of Rs. 36.50 and Rs. 42.65 lakhs during the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively for the purchase of drugs and consumables.

[English]

#### Pattern of CBSE Examinations

3373. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Board of Secondary Examinations proposes to switch over from the pattern of objective type questions to some other pattern;