

made of the resumption of Foreign Secretary level dialogue with Pakistan, signing of Treaty for sharing of Ganga waters with Bangladesh, and progress on several bilateral issues with the neighbouring countries. People to people level contracts are being promoted. The result has been a definite improvement in the overall atmosphere of mutual trust and urge for progress among all.

Likewise, Government have been actively pursuing a "Look East" policy as part of development of all round relations with the ASEAN countries. In the bilateral framework, as full dialogue partner of the ASEAN, as participant in the ASEAN, Regional Forum (ARF), and through institutional linkages, the Government has sought to further improve and consolidate relations with member countries of ASEAN.

With the Central Asian Republic, the Government has paid due attention to forging close relations with them. Resident Missions were established in each of them and bilateral visits at the highest political level have been exchanged with all. Trade and economic bonds are expanding, so are people to people contacts.

With countries of the West Asian region, the Government have maintained regular dialogue at all levels, including through exchange of delegations and seeking to promote cooperation in all fields, including trade, commerce, science and technology, industrial cooperation, environment and culture.

With China, relations are acquiring maturity and substance. Exchange of visits at the highest political level continues and both sides are agreed to work towards a constructive and cooperative relationship. With Japan, relations continue to strengthen and grow. Economic interaction has been expanding rapidly since economic liberalisation in India from 1991. Japan is India's largest bilateral donor for the last 8 years. Both countries have constituted Parliamentary Friendship Associations which is another step in the direction of forging closer relations. Relations with the two Koreas are traditional and friendly.

Land for CGHS Dispensary

77. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3509 dated August 13, 1997 and state:

(a) whether the plot for CGHS dispensary earmarked in CGHS Complex, Vasant Vihar by Land and Development Office has not yet been taken over by CGHS till date;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in taking over the same;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be taken over by CGHS; and

(d) the time by which the dispensary building is likely to be constructed and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) The plot has not been handed over to the CGHS by the Land and Development Office, as yet.

(d) The construction of a CGHS Dispensary at Vasant Vihar depends on the availability of resources and fulfilment of CGHS norms.

[*Translation*]

Bonded Labourers

78. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI A.G.S. RAMBABU :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that bonded labourers are on the increase in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government issued any directive to the State governments/non-Governmental Organisations to identify the same;

(c) whether any complaints regarding violation of Contract Labour Abolition and Regulation Act have been received;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(e) the number of persons identified as working under bondages in all the States/Union Territories; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the workers from bondage and the action taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a), (b) and (e) to (f) The Bonded Labour System stands abolished under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Ordinance w.e.f. 25.10.1975. The Ordinance was replaced by the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The State Governments have been advised from time to time to enforce provisions of the Act vigorously. Upto March, 1993, the number of bonded labourers identified was 2,51,424. No further cases of bonded labourers have been reported by any State Government/Union Territory since then. However, in October,

1996, the Various State/Union Territory Governments were advised to conduct survey to identify bonded labourers in their respective States latest by 31.12.1996. The outcome of the survey as reported is given below:—

1. Arunachal Pradesh	2460
2. Bihar	106
3. Karnataka	19
4. Madhya Pradesh	18
5. Maharashtra	2
6. Uttar Pradesh	237
7. Tamil Nadu	24918*
Total	27760

* The bonded labourers have been identified by NGOs appointed by State Government. This is being verified by concerned Distt. Collector.

The findings of the above mentioned survey are still being verified in some cases.

(c) and (d) As per available provisional data, 3970 inspections were carried out during 1996 in which 60142 irregularities were detected and 3158 cases of prosecution launched in terms of the provisions contained in the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970.

Atomic Minerals

79. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where the Union Government have conducted survey through Geological Survey of India to explore the possibilities of atomic minerals in 1996-97; and

(b) the names and quantity of atomic minerals explored thereby;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No survey has conducted by Government through Geological Survey of India to explore for atomic minerals in 1996-97

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Tuberculosis

80. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the study titled "Anti Tuberculosis Drug Resistance in the World" conducted jointly by World Health Organisation (WHO) and other leading international health agencies to identify tuberculosis "hot zones" in India particularly in Delhi, which alone leads with a 13 per cent of T.B. patients who are multi-drug resistant;

(b) if so, the outcome of the study; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to evolve new drug therapy for this multi-drug resistant T.B.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis is primarily caused due to irregular and/or incomplete treatment. As per the recommendations and outcome of this study the remedy lies in prevention of MDR-TB by implementing a more effective TB control Programme treating sputum positive pulmonary TB cases using the strategy of Directly Observed Treatment (DOT) which has already been implemented in population of over 20 million and is to be extended to 271 million in a phased manner.

Filling up of Posts in AIIMS

81. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had given a ruling that the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), N. Delhi should fill up all senior administrative posts and faculty positions through open selection by the Standing Selection Committee and approved by the governing body;

(b) if so, the details of posts vacant and the steps taken to fill up these posts;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaint about making appointments by passing the ruling given by the Supreme Court; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) The institute have reported that they are not aware of such a ruling given by the Supreme Court.