

The financial assistance is limited to Rs. 20,000/- in each case.

[English]

Visit of US Delegation

152. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether US delegation visited India in the month of October, 1997 and had discussion with various leaders of India;

(b) if so, to what extent the talks were successful;

(c) whether US offered selective Membership to India in U.N.;

(d) whether Pakistan firing at Jammu and Kashmir border and Pakistan's involvement in creating and helping terrorist in the State were also discussed; and

(e) if so, the outcome of the talks held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI):
(a) Yes, Sir. The US delegation led by Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Thomas Pickering visited India in October, 1997. The delegation held discussions at Official level and called on PM and Finance Minister.

(b) The talks were very successful in the context of a broadbased integrated and forward looking dialogue with the US touching upon bilateral relations as well as regional and global issues.

(c) Expansion of the UN Security Council was also discussed. The US side clarified its position of supporting Germany and Japan and three other nations from the developing countries as permanent members. We made clear our position, stressing the need for a non-discriminatory approach and the need for evolving criteria for permanent membership of UN Security Council.

(d) and (e) The attention of the US leadership was drawn to Pakistan's continuing support to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India and unprovoked firing by Pakistan across the Line of Control and the International Boundary in Jammu & Kashmir. The US side has conveyed that they took a serious view of terrorist activities. The US government recently declared the Pakistan based organisation Harkat-ul-Ansar as a terrorist organisation under

US law. The talks helped to create a better mutual understanding of ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation as also of each other's perceptions on important regional and international issues.

Wage Structure in Sugar Industry

153. SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revise the wage structure for the people employed in the sugar industry;

(b) if so, the approximate number of people employed in the sugar industry in the country, State-wise;

(c) the rate at which the wages are fixed per worker per day/per month; and

(d) the details of the proposed revision of wage structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The Government has constituted a Tripartite Industrial Committee on Sugar Industry on 3.10.97 consisting of representatives from Central Government, State Governments employees' and employees' Organisations. The Committee, inter-alia, will look into the wage structure of employees working in Sugar Industry.

(b) The State-wise details of employment in Sugar Industry are not available. However, as per available information, the total number of employees as in the year 1994-95 were 3.805 lakhs.

(c) The workers in the Sugar Industry are generally governed by the provisions of the recommendations of the Wage Board. The details regarding rate of wages per worker per day/per month are not maintained.

(d) The Committee has not so far given any recommendations on the wage structure in Sugar Industry.

Regional Research Institute for Ayurveda

154. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down the Regional Research Institute for Ayurveda situated at Trivandrum, Kerala and to shift the same to other place;

(b) if so, the circumstances led the Government to take such decision and the place where it is proposed to be shifted;