

Ties with Nepal

1089. DR. SANJAY SINH:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to establish long-term bilateral cooperation with Nepal;

(b) whether any high level talk was held in this regard while the King of Nepal visited New Delhi on the eve of Republic Day; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. while bilateral ties with Nepal are historical, close and friendly, constant endeavour is made to build further on this foundation for a mutually beneficial long-term bilateral cooperation.

(b) and (c) the King's visit was essentially a ceremonial event as he was invited as Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations. However, the visit did provide occasion for an overview of bilateral relations and exchange of views on matters of mutual interest. High level talks held during the King's visit covered the entire gamut of bilateral relations, in particular the potentials for long-term cooperation between India and Nepal in core sectors, including water resources. The two Governments would now be taking follow-up action in pursuance of this objective.

Import of Dairy Products

1090. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board has asked the Government to formulate suitable policy to stop indiscriminate import of dairy products into India;

(b) whether the prospect of lower subsidies has already led economies in Europe to reduce milk production;

(c) whether the Government have committed a zero tariff binding on skimmed milk powder at the World Trade Organisation; and.

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon and steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (d) The information is being collected from the concerned departments and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as soon as the same is received.

[Translation]

Visit of Heads of State

1091. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of President, Prime Minister, Head of States and other dignitaries who visited our country during the last one year; and

(b) the agreements reached with them during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The following are the details of Prime Ministers/Presidents/Heads of State/Government who visited India during the last one year (from March 1998 to February 1999) and the agreements signed during their visits:—

Canada

Mr. Romeo Le Blanc, Governor General of Canada visited India from March 26-April 3, 1998. Two MoUs, on Telecommunications Framework Project and on Telecommunications Operation Project were signed during the visit.

Nauru

Mr. Kinza Godfrey Clodumar, President of Nauru visited India from March 31 to April 5, 1998. No agreement was signed during the visit.

Bangladesh

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh visited India on June 16, 1998 and from January 27-29, 1999. No agreement was signed during the visit.