

*Maldives*

President MA Gayoom of Maldives visited India from June 30-July 1, 1998. No agreement was signed during the visit.

*Bhutan*

The King of Bhutan HM Jigme Singye Wangchuk visited India from October 5-8, 1998. No agreement was signed during the visit.

*Mauritius*

Mr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius visited India from October 13-19, 1998. No agreement was signed during the visit.

*Bulgaria*

Mr Peter Stoyanov, President of Bulgaria visited India from October 25-28, 1998. An agreement on Bilateral Investment Promotion was signed during the visit.

*Switzerland*

Mr Flavio Cotti, President of the Swiss Confederation visited India from November 20-25, 1998. No agreement was signed during the visit.

*Russia*

Mr Yevgeny Primakov, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation visited India from December 20-22, 1998. The following seven MoUs/agreements were signed during the visit:

- (i) Extradition Treaty
- (ii) Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal matters
- (iii) Consular Convention
- (iv) Agreement on Military-Technical Cooperation up to the year 2010
- (v) Joint Document on Development of Trade, Economic, Industrial, Financial, Science and Technology Cooperation.
- (vi) Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Communications.
- (vii) Air Transport Agreement

*Sri Lanka*

President Chandrika Kumaratunga Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka visited India from December 27-30, 1998. A

Free Trade Agreement between India and Sri Lanka and A MoU to set up India-Sri Lanka Foundation were signed during the visit.

*Luxembourg*

Mr Jean Claude Juncker, Prime Minister of Luxembourg visited India from January 10-13, 1999. An MoU for cooperation in the steel sector was signed during the visit.

*Tajikistan*

Mr. Emamali Rakhmanov, President of Tajikistan visited India from January 22, 1999. No agreement was signed during the visit.

*Nepal*

HM King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal visited India from January 24-29, 1999. No agreement was signed during the visit.

*Estonia*

Mr. Lennart Meri, President of Estonia visited India from February 3-10, 1999. An Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Science & Technology was signed during the visit.

*Republic of Korea*

Mr Kim Jong Pil, Prime Minister of Republic of Korea visited India from February 10-12, 1999. No agreement was signed during the visit.

[*English*]

**Uranium Mines**

1092. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of uranium mines in the country alongwith their locations;

(b) whether radiation in some of these mines particularly from Jaduguda in Bihar is affecting the workers and nearby villagers;

(c) whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the preventive measures taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):  
(a) The Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) a public sector undertaking (PSU) of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) at present operates three underground uranium mines at Jaduguda, Bhatin and Narwapahar, a mill at Jaduguda for processing the ore from all the mines and two plants at Mosabani and Rakha for recovering uranium from the copper tailings from the Hindustan Copper Limited. All these facilities are located in the East Singhbhum District of Bihar.

(b) to (e) Neither any employee of UCIL nor any nearby villager has been affected by radiation due to the mining operations of the company. Since the inception of this company, the radiation exposure to the employees and the radiation level in and around the plants have been constantly monitored by the Health Physics Unit of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, a constituent unit of this Department. The radiation exposure to miners are well below the prescribed permissible limits and the background radiation level at Jaduguda is also similar to that in the surrounding areas. Recently, a door-to-door health survey of inhabitants residing within 2 Km. radius area around UCIL was conducted by a team of medical officers from the State Government and UCIL hospital along with the scientists at the Health Physics Unit of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, stationed at Jaduguda. The team visited seventeen villages and examined about 4000 persons. Initial survey was followed by detailed pathological and other tests at UCIL Hospital, Tata Main Hospital, Jamshedpur and Tata Mehrabai Cancer Hospital at the end of which 29 cases were short-listed for further examination. Accordingly an expert team of Medical Doctors & Health Physicists from BARC, Mumbai visited the Jaduguda site. These experts alongwith Doctors from the State Government, UCIL and Tata Main Hospital re-examined the short listed cases.

Their unanimous conclusion is that the disease pattern in the area cannot be attributed to radiation exposure in any of these cases. All steps required for controlling radiation within permissible limits have always been and continue to be taken as a preventive measure.

[Translation]

#### **Production of Food Product**

1093. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:  
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:  
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any action plan to increase the production of food products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the action plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):  
(a) Government is implementing a number of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes within the frame-work of the 9th Five Year Plan to increase the production of food products in the agriculture sector.

(b) and (c) For the Ninth Five year Plan the Planning Commission has made an allocation of Rs. 9153.86 crore inclusive of an allocation of Rs. 1400 crore under the Special Action Plan for Doubling Food Production in next ten years to the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. With this, foodgrain production will go up to 234 million tonnes at the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan as compared to a target of 210 million tonnes set by the Planning Commission for the Eighth Five Year Plan.

[English]

#### **Economic Advisory Council**

1094. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have revived the Economic Advisory Council;

(b) if so; the composition thereof; and

(c) the reasons for taking a decision to revive the Economic Advisory Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY