

(b) the various matters discussed each time;

[*Translation*]

(c) whether any agreement has been signed between both the countries on any matter and particularly in the field of power during last one year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) The Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan have held talks on seven occasions during the last three years. The External Affairs Minister held talks with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan on two occasions. The Ministers of State for External Affairs also held talks with their counterparts on three occasions during this period. The Foreign Secretaries of the two countries have also held four formal rounds of discussions.

During his visit to Pakistan on 20-21 February 1999, the Prime Minister and the Pakistan Prime Minister signed the Lahore Declaration which is a landmark for peace and security of the two countries. The Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on confidence building measures. A Joint Statement was also issued on this occasion.

Following the second round of talks that had been held between the Foreign Secretaries in Islamabad from 19-23 June 1997 a Joint Statement was issued in which the two sides decided to address the following subjects.

(a) Peace and security, including CBMs; (b) Jammu and Kashmir, (c) Siachen; (d) Wullar Barrage Project/ Tulbul Navigation Project; (e) Sir Creek; (f) Terrorism and drug-trafficking; (g) Economic and Commercial Cooperation; and (h) Promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields.

Following agreement on the modalities of the dialogue, a follow-up statement was issued by the Foreign Secretaries in New York on 23 September 1998, in which it was decided to begin the composite dialogue process. The first round of talks was held from 15 October -13 November 1998 in Islamabad and New Delhi.

Following expert level talks between India and Pakistan, an agreement and a protocol to regulate the bus service between Delhi and Lahore was signed in Islamabad on 17 February 1999.

Discussions on the subject of power are going on between India and Pakistan.

### **Issue of Passports**

1137. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to issue passports within 30 days instead of 50 days on request of Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) While there is no such proposal before Government, every effort is made to issue all fresh passports within a period of five weeks from the date of application.

(c) The reasons for delay in issue of passports are increase in the number of applications, receipt of negative or incomplete reports from police authorities, discrepancies in documents submitted by the applicants, lack of response from applicants who are asked to submit additional documents, etc.

[*English*]

### **Voting Rights for Indian Citizens**

1138. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the matter in respect of allowing Indian citizens, living in Indian enclaves in Bangladesh, to cast their votes is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, since when and the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken/propose to take any decision in this regard?

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) Government is aware of the issue of voting rights for Indian citizens living in Indian

enclaves in Bangladesh. India has no administrative control or access to the Indian enclaves in Bangladesh. A proposal has been made to the Government of Bangladesh indicating that pending their exchange, the Government of India is agreeable to the idea of reciprocal facilities for the conduct of census and polls, in their respective enclaves.

The exchange of these enclaves is directly linked to, and will necessarily follow, the complete demarcation of the boundary between India and Bangladesh. There are 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and 51 Bangladesh enclaves in India, records pertaining to all of which have been reconciled by the survey authorities of the two countries. Government is fully committed to an early settlement of all boundary related issues with Bangladesh.

[Translation]

#### Cases with CAT

1139. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending cases in the Central Administrative Tribunal for the last three years as on January 31,1999, Bench-wise;

(b) the number of cases disposed-off during the above period, Bench-wise; and

(c) whether the Government propose to set up additional Benches for disposal of pending cases at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) A statement showing the bench-wise pendency and disposal of cases in the Central Administrative Tribunal for the last three years is attached Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

#### Statement

##### *Bench-wise Pendency and Disposal of cases in the Central Administrative Tribunal for the last three years*

Name of the Bench	Pendency at the end of the year			Disposal during the year		
	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Principal Bench	6374	6212	6477	3309	3938	3119
Ahmedabad Bench	2180	2389	2493	685	791	960
Allahabad Bench	6781	6757	7539	1845	1758	968
Lucknow Bench	2925	3088	3412	472	568	308
Bangalore Bench	1030	819	886	1624	1052	1228
Mumbai Bench	3089	3428	3634	1362	1512	1113