

(a) whether the Afghanistan Foreign Minister visited India in the month of June, 1990;

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks held with him on issues of mutual regional and international interests; and

(c) the details of the agreements signed during the visit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c). Foreign Minister of Afghanistan visited India on 12-13 June, 1990, in connection with the 9th meeting of the Indo-Afghan Joint commission. A comprehensive protocol envisaging cooperation in areas ranging from agriculture to commodity assistance and telecommunications, was signed on 13th June, 1990 at the conclusion of the Meeting. The protocol envisages cooperation in new areas of cartography, telecommunications, tourism, meteorology and in the water and power sector. The understandings, inter-alia, include doubling of the level of bilateral trade and of India's annual grant for supply of medicines and medical equipment, feasibility studies for the setting up of an industrial estate and caustic soda plant, increase in the number of training slots in India for Afghan technical personnel and deputation of 35 India technical experts to Afghanistan.

Discussions were also held on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The talks were characterised by mutual understanding and similarity of views.

[*Translation*]

S.T.D Facility in Bihar

4833. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number and names of cities to be provided with STD facility in Bihar during the year 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): 16, Godda, Gumal, Jehanabad (since commissioned), Araria, Lohardaga, Madhopura (since commissioned), Sahebganj, Pakur, Nirsra, Chakardharpur, Tatis-ilwai, Mesra, Ghatshila, Persudih, Kahalgaon and Lakshi saria subject to availability of equipment.

[*English*]

Arms Aid Sought by Sri Lanka from Pakistan

4834. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sri Lanka is making efforts to seek arms aid from Pakistan for finding a military solution to its ethnic problems; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) Government have seen reports that Sri Lanka Government is seeking arms from some foreign countries including Pakistan in the present conflict.

(b) Government have made known to Sri Lanka Government its concern about the involvement of foreign powers which may have adverse implications for India's security.

[*Translation*]

Rent for Buildings Paid by Government in Himachal Pradesh

4835. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the amount of rent paid by