

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to set up such a Technology Mission; and

(d) if so, the modalities and other details thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIDEVI LAL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. All India Cotton Federation Limited have sent representations for establishing a Technology Mission for Cotton.

(c) The issue has been examined by the Government of India and it is felt that Technology Mission approach is not feasible for reaching the goal for maximising cotton production.

(d) Question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Indo-Nepal Relations

*52. SHRI JAGDISH SINGH KUSHWAHA:
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which the Indo-Nepal trade agreement was entered into by Government;

(b) the reasons for which the agreement was not renewed;

(c) whether Government have taken any concrete steps to strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Indo-Nepal Trade Agreements, entered into from time to time, are based on the traditional, uniquely close Indo-Nepal relationship, as formalised in the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship.

(b) A new Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty, initiated in October, 1988 had included certain commitments by the Government of Nepal. These were not fulfilled. Therefore, the new Treaty could not be signed. The old Treaty, which had been given ad-hoc extensions since March 1988, lapsed on March 23, 1989.

(c) and (d). Government have taken initiatives to improve our relations with Nepal. The Nepalese Foreign Minister, Shri S.K. Upadhyay, visited India from January 3 to 5, 1990. The discussions during his visit contributed to greater understanding of each other's interests and concerns. As a follow-up to this visit, a wide range of subjects of mutual interest were covered in the official level talks held in New Delhi from February 19-22, 1990. These included trade, transit, economic and industrial cooperation, security perceptions, treatment of each other's nationals etc. Progress was made towards a comprehensive solution of all outstanding problems. During the next round of official talks, work will begin on the documents that would comprise the framework of the close and age-old Indo-Nepal relationship and strengthen it on an enduring basis.

[*English*]

Indo-Sri Lanka Friendship Treaty

*53. DR. K. KALIMUTHU:
SHRI ERA ANBARASU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has offered recently a