

Visit by Foreign Minister of Portugal

*48. SHRI SARJOO PANDEY:
SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of Portugal recently visited India and met our Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister;

(b) if so, the gist of the discussions held; and

(c) whether any treaty was signed between India and Portugal and if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Discussions were held on various topics of bilateral and international interest. Copies of the Treaty signed on the 31st December, 1974 have been placed in the Parliament Library. The Treaty is yet to be ratified. The main features of the Treaty are the formal recognition by Portugal of India's full sovereignty over Goa, Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli from the dates on which they became parts of India under the Indian Constitution; the resumption of diplomatic relations between Portugal and India with immediate effect; agreement to settle through bilateral negotiations all questions between them including those concerning properties, assets and claims; and a provision to conclude a cultural agreement shortly.

Achievement of Planned Target of Shipping Industry

*49 SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shipping being highly capital-intensive industry, Government have taken any steps to grow

and expand it to achieve the planned target;

(b) whether liberal financial assistance at moderate rate of interest is proposed to be given; and

(c) if not, what other steps are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): (a) to (c). A non-lapsable fund called the Shipping Development Fund was set up in 1959 for grant of rupee loans to Shipping Companies to facilitate the growth of Indian Shipping tonnage. The Fund had sanctioned till October, 1974, loans amounting to Rs. 596.34 crores, of which Rs. 368.44 crores have been disbursed.

SAIL Commissioned Feasibility Studies for Giant Steel Plants

*50. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SAIL has commissioned feasibility studies for two more giant steel plants;

(b) if so, the time likely to be taken for completion of the studies; and

(c) the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): (a) to (c). The Steel Authority of India Limited have commissioned Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited to prepare Feasibility Reports on two integrated steel plants—one in the Bailadila region in Madhya Pradesh and the other near Surajgarh in Maharashtra. These studies are likely to be completed within six months. The Feasibility Reports would be for