

Political change in Europe

733. PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
be pleased to state:

(a) What is Government preception of recent changes in Germany, the Soviet Union and other East European countries; Mid

(b) what strategic changes Government visualise to strengthen our friendly presence and mutual gains in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The Government of India welcomes German unification and the political and economic reforms underway in the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe. We hope that these changes would contribute to peace and stability in Europe and an improved climate of international relations.

(b) In the changing circumstances, the Government is taking steps to expand and intensify India's ties in various fields with all these countries.

734. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that ECO '92 was organised recently in New Delhi where Ms. Brundtland was also present and if so, the details of the summary Recommendations;

(b) whether it is a fact that the participating NGOs made written and oral submissions and if so, the details thereof; j and

(c) whether Government would send large contingent to the ECO '92 in Brazil?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Government of India is aware of the ECO '92 Public Forum organised in New Delhi on 19th Septem-

ber 1990 and attended by Ms. Gro Harlem Brundtland. The ECO '92 Public Forum did not adopt any Summary (Recommendations).

(b) Some of the participating NGO's made written and oral submissions relating to the protection of the environment and the interrelationship between environment and development, both in the international context as also with respect to the Indian situation.

(c) Government of India would be appropriately represented at the UN Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in June 1992. A meeting of NGO's is also likely to be held in parallel with that Conference. The nature of participation in that NGO meeting is for the NGO's to decide.

Transportation of Indian from the Gulf

735. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated expenditure incurred by Government for transporting the stranded Indians safely from the Gulf countries to India as a result of the recent Gulf crisis;

(b) the number of those who have so far been transported back to India safely and those who still remain there to be repatriated; and

(c) what steps are being taken for transporting the remaining Indians and, for transferring their properties including their bank accounts from there?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Estimated expenditure on repatriation of stranded Indians from Kuwait and Iraq is approx. Rs. 300 crores. SM

(b) Approx. 1, 50, 000 Indian nationals have been repatriated from Iraq and Kuwait. According to latest estimates, there are still an estimated 12, 000 to 14, 000 Indian nationals in Kuwait who have opted to stay back. There are also another 4, 000 persons approx, in Iraq.

(c) Flights would be arranged on a need basis to bring them back to India. Under present prevailing conditions, transfer of properties including bank accounts is not possible.

Air pollution

736. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi's auto pollution is creating winter fog;

(b) whether there has been any decrease in overall air pollution during last three years and if so, details thereof indicating the steps that have helped most; and

(c) what steps are proposed to meet the situation in Delhi and other cities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Winter fog is a natural phenomenon caused by meteorological conditions. Emissions from vehicles however, contribute significantly to the pollution load in Delhi;

(b) There is a declining trend in the annual mean values of the ambient levels of suspended particulate matter in the last three years, primarily because the emissions from three thermal power plants in Delhi are now meeting the standards. The standards for vehicular emissions have come into effect from March 1, 1990 in Delhi and are being enforced; and action is being taken by the Central Pollution Control Board to control emissions from major industrial units.

(c) Steps proposed to control air pollution in Delhi and other cities are as follows:

(i) Mass emission standards for vehicles have been notified and will come into effect from April, 1991 for petrol driven vehicles and April, 1992 for diesel driven vehicles.

(ii) The petroleum industry has been asked to reduce the lead content in petrol supplied to Delhi and bring it down to 0.15 grammes per litre by April, 1993.

(iii) The Government has issued a notification on Dec. 6, 1990 that for vehicles manufactured after April 1, 1991 every manufacturer of motor vehicles shall submit the prototype of the vehicles to be manufactured for test by an agency specified by the Central Government for certification to the compliance of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Rules, including vehicular emission standards.

Talks with U. S. Secretary of State about strain on Indian economy caused by Gulf crisis

737. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the then Minister of External Affairs, during his visit to the US in connection with UN General Assembly meeting towards the end of September, 1990 informed the US Secretary of State about the extent of strain caused on Indian economy by the recent Gulf crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what was the US Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the meetings with the US Secretary of State, the then Exter-