

(c) The hostilities between the Government Forces and LTTE since June 1990 have led to continuing influx of refugees and large-scale civilian suffering. Only a negotiated political settlement which takes into account legitimate Tamil demands can lead to a lasting peace in Sri Lanka and create conditions which would permit the return of all refugees.

U. S. armed forces in the Gulf

691. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US armed forces have given indications that they would leave the Gulf region only after attaining the basic objective of Iraq's complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait; and

(b) if so, what action Government contemplate to defuse the tension in that area?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) A number of United States officials have made statements to this effect.

(b) Government are of the view that every effort must be made to seek a peaceful solution of this crisis; and that the first step towards such a solution would be the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and the restoration of the sovereignty and independence of the latter.

Resolution of Krishna water dispute

692. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra met at Tirupathi and Bangalore to resolve the Krishna water dispute; and

(b) if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra met at Tirupati and Bangalore on 21-4-1990 and 22. 8. 1990 respectively to discuss the issues relating to the Telugu Ganga Project and sharing of surplus Krishna waters^

(b) After discussing various alternative proposals, it was decided to meet again at Mahabaleshwar.

U. N. Observer Mission in Kashmir

693. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present strength of U. N. Observer Mission in Kashmir;

(b) the purpose for which these U. N. Observers were posted there;

(c) whether the circumstances which necessitated their posting in Kashmir still exist-

(d) if not, whether Government propose to take up this matter with the U. N. O. for the withdrawal of U. N. observers; and

(e) whether any militant in Kashmir had contacts with the U. N. observers there?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The current strength of UN Observers stationed in Kashmir is 37.

(b) The UN Military Observers Group was established specifically with reference to the old 1949 ceasefire line which has no validity any longer. They have not been entrusted with any responsibility in regard to the present Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government have not so far made a formal request to the U. N. , but have made it clear to the U. N. that they do not have any role to play in Jammu and Kashmir.

(e) Government has not come across any instances of the U. N. Observers having contacts with terrorists in Jammu & Kashmir,

Minor irrigation programmes

694. SHRI J. S. RAJU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any programme to bring area under minor irrigation to cover dry land and rainfed areas with the Central Government financial support;

(b) whether District-wise, Block/Pockets concentrated with Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes have been identified under this minor irrigation programme with earmarking of funds for the benefits of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes; if so details thereof- and

(c) whether Government are aware of potential area for minor irrigation tanks in the rainfed/dryland area in Perambur and Ariyalur taluks of Trichurapalli districts of Tamil Nadu; if so, the programme of construction of minor irrigation tanks in these two taluks concentrated with Scheduled Castes [Scheduled Tribes through Central Financial support?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir, under the Integrated Tribal Development programme.

(b) District-wise pockets concentrated with Scheduled Tribes have been identified under the minor irrigation programme for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes. About 103 schemes of construction of check dams at an estimated cost of about Rs 375 lakhs to create a potential of about 1445 ha. have been programmed for Vill

Five Year Plan under Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP.). There is no Such programme for the benefit of Scheduled Castes under this scheme.

(c) There is no programme to construct Minor irrigation tanks for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes only in Perambur and Ariyalur Taluks of Trichurapalli district of Tamil Nadu.

Releasing toxic substances in environment by Union Carbide Plant at Bhopal

695. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state.

(a) whether some reports have appeared that Union Carbide Plant at Bhopal has been releasing toxic substances in environment for a long time;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether leakage of same substances in 1984 led to death of more than 3000 people in Bhopal;

(d) whether Government propose to take some action urgently in the matter to avert chances of same incidents which occurred in 1984; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and if not what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Reports have appeared in a section of the press that toxic substances in substantial quantities are still present in the environment around the Union Carbide Plant in Bhopal. Reports are based on a paper published by the US-based National Toxic Campaign Fund after laboratory analysis of samples from the former Union Carbide Plant site. According to the report, Dichlorobenzene, an insecticide and chemical intermediate that can damage the liver, kidneys and respiratory and nervous systems besides causing irritation, weight loss and sometimes even death, was found in the community drinking water tanks. The pre-