

Visit of PM to Arunachal Pradesh

1576. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China had protested in strongest terms to register its objections to the visits of Indian political leaders to Arunachal Pradesh, including the Prime Minister to Arunachal Pradesh on October 3, 2009 warning Indian of 'triggering disturbances in the disputed region';

(b) if so, whether Government gave a befitting reply to warning thereto; and

(c) if so, in what terms?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) China has objected to the visit of Indian leaders to Arunachal Pradesh, including Prime Minister's visit in October, 2009. China illegally claims approximately 90,000 square kilometres of Indian territory in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. The fact that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India and that it is well established practice in our democratic system, that our leaders visit States where elections to Parliament and to the State Assemblies are taking place, has been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side.

Meeting with Foreign Minister of Nepal

1577. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nepalese Foreign Minister met the External Affairs Minister;

(b) if so, the details of discussion which took place;

(c) whether the matter relating to the recent spurt in the cross-border infiltration by Pakistan was also brought to his notice; and

(d) if so, his reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) The Nepalese Foreign Minister Ms. Sujata Koirala visited India from August 10 to 14, 2009 and met the Minister of External Affairs. During the visit, issues of mutual interest, including border management were discussed. Both sides agreed to resolve border related issues through existing bilateral mechanisms and not allow the open border to be misused. Nepal assured that it will not allow its territory to be used against India. India expressed full support for the successful completion of the peace process and for Nepal's efforts for its economic development. The visit was a preparatory one preceding the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, to India from August 18-22, 2009.

Integrated low cost sanitation programme

1578. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the conversion of dry latrines into water-seal units in 2009-10 under Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Programme; and

(b) the achievement and the present status of such conversion?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) As per the revised guidelines of ILCS the target for conversion of dry latrines into twin pit pour latrines is by March 2010.

(b) Under the revised guidelines proposals received from the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Jammu & Kashmir were approved for conversion of 2,49,035 dry latrines in to twin pit pour flush latrines during the year 2008-09 and 2009-10 and funds were released. States of Assam and Nagaland have reported that they do not have dry latrines. As per the progress report received from the State of Bihar, 342 units are completed and 341 units are in progress and in the State of Uttar Pradesh 17583 units are completed and 12003 units are in progress.

Urban poverty in India

1579. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that urban poverty in India remains high, at over 25 percent with over 80 million poor people living in the cities and towns of India;

(b) whether Government is also aware that Urban poverty poses the problems of housing and shelter, water, sanitation, health, education, social security and livelihoods along with special needs of vulnerable groups like women, children and aged people;

(c) if so, what efforts have been made by Government during the last three years; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Planning Commission releases estimates of urban poor from time to time based on the national sample survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). As per the latest such estimates of NSSO (61st Round) for the year 2004-05, based on the Uniform Recall Period (URP) method, the estimated number of urban poor is 80.8 million which is 25.7% of the urban population.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government has revamped the scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), with effect from 1st April 2009. The objective of the scheme of SJSRY is to provide