

jects namely, Rajghat Canal and Narmada Sagar projects were pending for clearance in Planning Commission as on 31.3.88. For the Rajghat Canal Project, the concurrence of the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh for alignment of the Datia Carrier Canal in Uttar Pradesh is awaited. Approval of the Technical Advisory Committee and Central Electricity Authority to the revised costs estimates of the Narmada Sagar Project awaited. Planning Commission will be in a position to take further action in the matter only after receipt of the above mentioned concurrence/approval.

#### **Manufacturers of shell of Bofors gun**

1040. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state what are the names and details of the manufacturers for the shell of Bofors gun?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): This information is not available as no order has so far been placed on any manufacturer for the shell of Bofors gun.

#### **De jure recognition of Israel**

1041. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether India had de jure recognized the State and Government of Israel in September, 1950;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that India have neither an Embassy nor a consulate in Israel;

(c) whether Government are aware of the harassment and delay Israeli citizens face when they seek Indian visas to visit the relatives in Maharashtra and Kerala; and \*

(d) whether Government propose to streamline the visa procedures for Israelis who have relatives in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India has not established diplomatic relations with Israel and has accordingly not opened an Embassy or Consulate in that country.

(c) and (d) Government are not aware of any harassment or delay in grant of visas to Israeli citizens seeking to visit their relatives in India. A special procedure has been devised for the issue of visas to Israeli citizens of Indian origin. The policy and Procedure in this regard is under constant review.

#### **Missions to Mars**

1042. SHRI KANHU CHARAN LENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian scientists will help the Soviet scientists in the Missions to Mars;

(b) whether there is any possibility that this joint venture will help India to land on the Mars; and

(c) if so, by when it will be possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. E. NARAYANAN): (a) Discussions on the Indian participation in some of the experiments for the future Soviet missions for the exploration of Mars by sending unmanned spacecraft are under way. These discussions are in a very preliminary stage.

(b) There are no plans for an Indian landing on Mars, as the ex-

plorations are unmanned scientific studies.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Fire at Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur**

1043. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether clear evidence of terrorists have come in light in sabotaging the Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur on March 23, 1988;

(b) if so, whether any further investigations have since been made to find out the exact cause of sabotage: and

(c) by when the committee appointed by Government to probe the circumstances will submit its report and what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV). (a) There was no immediate evidence of sabotage by terrorists.

(b) A Court of Inquiry has already been ordered to ascertain the cause of fire and to go into other important aspects of the incident. Another investigating agency has also gone into the matter.

(c) The Inquiry is likely to be completed during this month and the report is expected thereafter. Further action will depend on report of the Court of Inquiry.

#### **Meeting between Indian and Sri Lankan Prime Minister**

1044. SHRI PAFJATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka visited India in April this

year and held discussions with the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, what was the nature of discussions held between the two Prime Ministers and the decision taken thereon;

(c) whether Government have taken exception to the press note issued by the Sri Lankan High Commission in India regarding the meeting; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka visited India in April as the leader of the Sri Lankan

delegation to the 11th session of the U.N. Commission on Human Settlements. During his stay in Delhi, he called on Prime Minister. As this was purely a courtesy call no official discussions were held or decisions taken on bilateral matters.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government were surprised at the unilateral issue of a press release on informal exchanges during a private courtesy call on the Prime Minister. Further, the press release had quoted our Prime Minister selectively, out of context and inaccurately.

#### **Passport to Win Chadha**

1045. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a temporary passport for a limited period had been granted to Win Chadha to enable him to come to India and to appear before the Joint Committee of Parliament which was enquiring into Bofors deal;