

tory discussions on outstanding bilateral problems and on international problems of common interest?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) The Chinese Foreign Minister is expected to pay a visit to India some time later this year to reciprocate the visit made in 1979 by our Minister for External Affairs.

(b) The Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Eric Gonsalves, will pay a routine visit to Peking from June 20th to 24th as part of the exploratory process of dialogue between the two countries with a view to normalising their relations.

Agreements with Bangladesh over the Ganga Waters

695. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when the existing agreement on division of Ganga Waters between India and Bangladesh is likely to expire;

(b) whether it is likely to be extended in its present form;

(c) what is the progress towards a permanent agreement on the problem; and

(d) whether the progress is unsatisfactory and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) According to Article XV of this agreement, the Agreement is to remain in force till November 1982 and it may be extended for a further specified period by mutual consent in the light of the review of this agreement, the first of which is due to take place during November this year.

(c) and (d) The two Governments had exchanged their proposals for longterm augmentation of Ganga Waters in March 1978. Joint studies of these proposals have not yet begun.

Normalisation of relations with Pakistan

696. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any proposals for further normalisation of relations with Pakistan;

(b) whether the categories for issue of visas are likely to be increased to include tourists and casual visitors;

(c) whether the ban on entry of books and periodicals is likely to be revoked; and

(d) whether exchange of goodwill visits by various professional groups e.g. lawyers, farmers, doctors, academicians etc. are likely to be promoted?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) The Simla Agreement is the basis of normalisation of relations between India and Pakistan. India is honouring all its obligations under the Agreement and is willing to do more.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter is under consideration of the two Governments.

(d) Government is working towards promoting goodwill visits by such professional groups.

Racket in the claims Department of Northern Railway

697. SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of claims received by the Northern Railway during the last one year from the consignees of coal wagons for recovery of the cost of coal which are illegally diverted to power houses and locos;

(b) what is the number of wagons later connected against such pending claims by the Claims Department of Northern Railway;

(c) whether Government are aware that there is a racket in the Claims Department of the Northern Railway whereby the original consignees are cheated of their consignments and their claims are purchased under duress by certain elements who are in collusion with the officials of the Claims Department as well as some other functionaries in the Northern Railway Headquarters; and

(d) whether Government propose to institute an inquiry into the matter with the cooperation of the Punjab Coal Merchants' Association?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) During 1979-80, 3913 claims were received by the Northern Railway in respect of coal booked to the public. Only after complete enquiries, could it be found whether these are due to public coal wagons being diverted to Power Houses or Loco Sheds.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Malpractices in the Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute

698. **SHRI S. KUMARAN:** Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Blitz of 29th March, 1980 regarding the alleged mis-management and malpractices in the Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute, Delhi;

(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted into these allegations; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and what action had been taken to set right the affairs of the Institute?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes.

(b) The Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute is an autonomous body, maintained by the University of Delhi. The Governing Body of this Institute has constituted a Committee to look into the functioning of the Clinical Research Centre. Another Committee has been formed by the Governing Body to enquire into the allegations made by certain members of the academic members of the Institute.

(c) On receipt of the reports of the above mentioned Committees suitable action will be taken, in due course of time.

Financial difficulties of D.T.C.

699. **SHRI F. M. KHAN:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Transport Corporation is facing a financial crisis; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

Conference of Foreign Ministers of non-aligned countries

700. **SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cuba has invited all members of the non-aligned countries to unscheduled foreign Ministers' Conference to be held in July, 1980, in Havana;

(b) whether Government have agreed to attend the Conference; and

(c) what are the subjects proposed to be discussed thereat?