

visited the U.S.S.R., recently held negotiations with the Soviet Government on a cultural agreement between India and U.S.S.R., for 1965-66; and

(b) if so, the nature of the said negotiations and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI R. M. HAJAENAVIS): (a) Yes, Sir. The negotiations were held to finalise the 1965-66 Cultural Exchanges Programme.

The Cultural Agreement with U.S.S.R., was concluded in 1960.

(b) The negotiations related to exchanges in the fields of education, science, technology, health and culture between India and U.S.S.R. As a result of the discussions, an Ind'o-U.S.S.R. Cultural Exchanges Programme for the year 1965-66 containing 80 items was finalised.

HOME MINISTER'S VISIT TO KUTCH

205. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he visited the border areas in Kutch district of Gujarat towards the end of March, 1965; and

(b) if so, what was his assessment of the actual position obtaining on the Ind'o-Pakistan border?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) My assessment at that time was as follows:

The Pakistani authorities had disturbed the *status quo*. They had illegally set up two standing posts about 1300 and 2000 yards within our territory. In spite of our reminders, they had not shown any disposition to have meetings of the Deputy Inspector General, Rajkot Range and D.G. West Pakistan Rangers.

PETRO-CHEMICAL CORPORATION

206. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has decided to establish a Petrochemical Corporation for administering petro-chemical units; and

(b) if so, what will be its share capital, and what percentage thereof will be shared by the Central Government, foreign collaborators, if any, and the Gujarat Government for a unit in the Gujarat State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to establish a Petro-chemical Corporation. At present it is in a very preliminary stage. Details are being worked out so that Government can take a decision on the proposal.

MEETING OF U.C.C. DEPUTATION WITH HOME MINISTER

207. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a deputation on behalf of the U.C.C. led by Shri Jyoti Basu met him in Calcutta in April to urge the release, at least on parole, of six detenus who had been elected as Councillors of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation; and

(b) if so, what were his reactions to the request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Chief Minister, West Bengal was present when the Home Minister received the deputation. The Home Minister said that the release of these detenus was a matter for the West Bengal Government. Asked about his