

rate in urban areas is taking a dip, I think there is an urgent need for a similar Central Government sponsored scheme for implementation at the State level. A monitoring-cum-collaborative approach is required to be taken to make timely use of the funds. The Central Government is releasing funds for this scheme for the benefit of the poor people. But for any reason, it becomes a blame game between the Centre and the States. My question is: Will the hon. Minister seriously consider making full use of the initiative taken by the Central Government in respect of these women welfare schemes? A proper monitoring-cum-collaborative mechanism with the State Government needs to be put in place to make use of the scheme. Will the hon. Minister consider that?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Hon. Chairman, Sir, I appreciate the spirit behind this question of the hon. Member. But I would like to tell the House that we are in a federal system. The Central Government releases funds and the monitoring is done by the State Governments. There is a monitoring committee which reviews the implementation of these projects from time to time. What he is saying is that the funds released by the Central Government are not utilised in a time bound manner and that there is a need for further monitoring of the schemes. Sir, we will try to take further steps in this direction as per the spirit of the hon. Member's question.

श्री अजय संचेती: सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिस तरह से इन्होंने कहा है, अगर वह स्कीम सक्सेसफुल हो जाती है, तो क्या इसे अन्य राज्यों में भी, स्पेशली महाराष्ट्र में लागू करने की कोई योजना है?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, it is a suggestion, I shall keep it in mind.

श्री रामदास अठावले: चेयरमैन सर. छत्तीसगढ़ की 2900 महिलाओं के लिए यह प्रस्ताव था, लेकिन अगर इसमें छत्तीसगढ़ में मैक्सिमम महिलाओं के लिए प्रस्ताव कर दिया जाता है, ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

### Talks with PM of Pakistan

†\*424. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of talks with the Pakistan Prime Minister after a day of oath by the new Government;
- (b) whether India raised the issue of terror camps running in Pakistan seriously, if so, the response of Pakistan; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) In his meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan on May 27, 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated India's long standing policy of working to build a peaceful, friendly and cooperative bilateral relationship with Pakistan, and commitment to resolve outstanding issues with Pakistan through a peaceful bilateral dialogue within the framework of the Simla agreement. In this context Prime Minister underlined the importance of maintaining an environment free from terrorism and violence, to ensure peace and tranquillity along the international border and ensure the sanctity of the Line of Control. Concern was also expressed at the glacial pace at which the Mumbai terror attack trials are proceeding in Pakistan.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan recalled the Lahore process, which reaffirms the Simla Agreement and the commitment to abjure violence and resolve all outstanding issues through peaceful bilateral dialogue, and conveyed his willingness to pick up the threads from where it had been left off in October 1999.

**India-USA agreement to develop monsoon forecast model**

\*425. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and USA propose to enter into an agreement to develop the monsoon forecast model, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also proposed to improve weather systems in India under the above agreement; and

(c) whether the above cooperation would help Indian farmers to increase productivity and enhance climate and crop forecasting to avoid losses, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No Sir. Recognizing the importance of scientific and technical cooperation in Earth Observations and Sciences a MoU was signed on the Earth Sciences and Observations by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (on behalf of Government of India), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (on behalf of US Government) on 16th April, 2008 to establish an enabling mechanism for undertaking joint activities between the two countries to use the combined scientific and technical skills in enhancing the observations of the Earth and use the information most effectively for the benefit of the society.

Under this MoU, various Implementation Agreements (IAs) were undertaken with specific strategy involving Indian and US groups with well defined objectives, deliverables, individual as well as joint roles and monitoring/evaluating mechanism. For overall monitoring and integration of the various activities, a mechanism, is being put in place in the form of Joint Committee (JC) having members from both the countries.