

(d) if so, the details of the outcome of the conference and how far the same has been beneficial to the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Farm subsidies by United States was not specifically on the agenda of UNCTAD XI Conference. However, the need for elimination of all export subsidies by developed countries was emphasized by us in our discussions. The negotiated text adopted by the Conference emphasized, among other things, the need for reductions of, with a view to phasing out, all forms of export subsidies, and substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) India along with other developing countries group known as G-77 and China, were successful in highlighting the concern of developing countries under the multilateral trading system. India also participated in a G20 meeting, along with countries such as Brazil, China, South Africa, Argentina etc., which was held in parallel to the UNCTAD deliberations. The main theme of the G20 discussions was the need for preferential treatment for developing countries especially in the agricultural sector, in the on-going negotiations of the WTO. The developing countries succeeded in pointing out that the central issue of globalization should be development. It was also acknowledged that there is a need for policy space and policy flexibility for the development strategies of national Governments. It was decided that UNCTAD, which has provided an invaluable forum for advancing the inter-relationship between trade and development, from both the national and international perspective, across the three pillars of its mandate: independent policy analysis, technical assistance and consensus building, should continue its work and provide necessary inputs to the developing countries.

Cultural Heritage of the Country

†*290. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cultural heritage of the country is 5000 years old;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to protect this heritage;

(c) if so, the action plan formulated by Government in this regard; and

(d) by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The antiquity of Indian culture is estimated as 5000 years. Protection of our heritage is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture. The 'Mission' of the Government includes protection and preservation of all protected monuments and all forms of cultural assets and heritage—both tangible and intangible. For the protection of cultural heritage sites and properties, necessary legislation already exists. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 were enacted for the above purpose. A number of institutions such as the Archaeological Survey of India, National Archives of India, Anthropological Survey of India, Institutes of Buddhist and Tibetan Studies, various Museums and Libraries under the administrative control of the Government, Akademies-Sangeet Natak, Lalit Kala and Sahitya and National School of Drama have been constituted for this purpose. In addition, the Government is providing grants under various schemes to individuals and institutions including registered societies, trust and Non-Governmental organizations for achieving the above objectives.

Installation of Transmitters in Himachal Pradesh

†*291. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had given approval for installation of twenty V.L.P.T., L.P.T. and H.P.T. in Himachal Pradesh during the Ninth Five Year Plan, out of which work on only ten transmitters has been taken up so far;

(b) whether the Information and Liaison Director of Himachal Pradesh had made a request to the Director General of Doordarshan, Mandi House *vide* his letter dated 24.4.02 for installing the remaining ten transmitters and converting V.L.P.T. into L.P.T.; and

(c) if so, by when a final decision would be taken in this regard?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.