

cooperation, including India's assistance for development of curriculum for technical institutions in Sri Lanka and for devising a school assessment system, joint production of films, dramas and television software. A draft Cultural Exchange Programme, valid for next three years, was also discussed.

**China's view about minimum nuclear deterrence for India**

1753. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "China against minimum N-deterrence for India" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 28th January, 1999;

(b) if so, whether China has opposed any deal to allow India to have minimum nuclear deterrence in return for joining CTBT; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government on such opposition made by China?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) (a) and, (b) Yes Sir. Government has seen press reports cited above.

(c) Government did not subscribe to the UN Security Council Resolution 1172, which therefore, cannot provide a basis for our ongoing dialogue with key interlocutors. We are currently engaged in these dialogues on the basis of a set of proposals made by India which clearly envisage, inter alia, the maintenance by India of a minimum credible nuclear deterrent.

**Visit to South Korea**

1754. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of External has visited South Korea recently; and

(b) if so, the details of achievements made during the visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Minister of External Affairs has not visited the Republic of Korea (ROK) since he assumed office. However, the Minister of State for External Affairs [MOS (EA)] paid an official visit to ROK from 21 to 24 January 1999. MOS(EA) called on the Prime Minister of ROK and conveyed PM's invitation to the ROK Prime Minister to visit India in February 1999. She also met the Minister of Foreign Affairs & Trade and the Minister of State for Trade of ROK. The discussions focussed on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. MOS(EA) met the members of Korea-India Society and the Korea-India Business Council and held discussions with them on the strengthening of friendship and cooperation between our peoples and countries.

The visit has contributed to strengthening bilateral relations with ROK which is one of India's major economic partners. The Prime Minister of ROK visited India on 10-11 February 1999 in response to PM's invitation.

**Permanent Membership of the Security Council**

1755. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of progress being made for permanent seat of India in the Security Council;

(b) which countries have supported India for permanent place in Security Council;

(c) which countries have opposed; and

(d) what steps Government are taking for securing permanent place in the Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) UN Security Council restructuring and expansion is being discussed in the

Open Ended Working Group of the UN General Assembly. Among the issues being discussed are the size of the expanded Council, the numbers of new permanent and non-permanent members, the procedure and criteria for selecting the new permanent members and related issues such as the veto.

(b) and (c) There is widespread recognition in the UN that developing countries must be properly represented in any expansion of permanent membership of the UN Security Council and that India is one of the leading countries qualified for representation in the permanent category in an expanded and restructured Security Council.

(d) Prime Minister, during his address to the UN General Assembly on September 24, 1999 stated that India had the ability and qualifications to discharge the responsibilities that come, with permanent membership and was prepared to do so. India has continued to take an active part in the discussions of UN Security Council restructuring, including those which took place in November, 1998 at the UN General Assembly. India is also engaged in deliberations on the subject in the Open Ended Working Group which was convened in February, 1999.

#### **Reinstatement of Super 301**

1756. SHRI GURUDAS DAS  
GUPTA: SHRI J.  
CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States has decided to reinstate Super 301 as a part of its global trade strategy;

(b) if so, the details and its impact on India's trade?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) A press release was issued on January 26, 1996 by the Office of the US Trade Representative announcing US President Clinton's decision to reinstate Super 301 and Title VII Executive Order.

(b) Super-301 authority—which expired in 1997—enables the US Trade Representative (USTR) to identify the trade practices which the US considers as constituting "Unfair trade".

USTR will report the results of its 1999 Super-301 review to US Congress at the end of April 1999. There is no immediate impact of the revival of this, authority on India's trade.

India regards all such unilateral measures as counter-productive and unjustified. Issues relating to international trading system should be discussed in the multilateral organisations set up for the purpose.

#### **Economic Restrictions Imposed by US**

1757. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the News-item captioned "India protests, US is clear, loans our bargaining chip" published in "The Indian Express" dated 28th Jan. 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Indian Express of 27th January, 1999 in the news item captioned "India protests, US is clear. Loans our bargaining chip" reported that US Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Karl Inderfurth stated at a briefing "Our ultimate aim is to remove all sanctions.... how quickly, depends on the progress we make".

(c) Government's position regarding unilateral restrictive economic measures is clear. Government regards all such measures as unjustified and counter-productive and is of the view that they should be lifted. Government, however will not negotiate security issues on this