

ed to the Prime Minister of Pakistan that their presence in Colombo for the SAARC Summit would enable them to hold bilateral discussions on all issues of mutual interest, and also to decide on how to proceed further with the dialogue process. In his reply of 23 June, 1998, the Prime Minister of Pakistan agreed with Prime Minister's suggestion to hold bilateral discussions during the SAARC Summit in Colombo.

Prime Minister's letter to his Pakistani counterpart

2509. SHRI GURUDAS DAS

GUPTA:

SHRI N.R. DASARI:

DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had written to his counterpart in Pakistan, Shri Nawaz Sharif, making an offer for a dialogue on a whole array of bilateral issues, including Kashmir, and

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Prime Minister wrote to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on 14 June, 1998 reiterating India's commitment to fostering a peaceful and friendly relationship, and developing a stable structure of cooperation between India and Pakistan. In his letter, Prime Minister also conveyed to the Prime Minister of Pakistan that their presence in Colombo for the SAARC Summit would enable them to hold bilateral discussions on all issues of mutual interest, and also to decide on how to proceed further with the dialogue process. In his reply of 23 June, 1998, the Prime Minister of Pakistan agreed with Prime Minister's suggestion to hold bilateral discussions during the SAARC Summit in Colombo.

False Propaganda against India by Pakistan

2510. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present infrastructure available our Missions in the Islamic countries to counter the false propaganda of Pakistan and inform these countries of the role of ISI in spreading terrorism in India.

(b) whether the Govt. has any proposal to expand the activities of ICCR to bring the Islamic countries nearer to India and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Missions in Islamic countries are fully geared to counter all anti-India propaganda. The infrastructure includes publicity tools like video projectors, satellite dish antennas, audio equipment etc. Embassies are also supplied audio-visual and print material for dissemination. Books are provided for Embassy libraries and for presentation purposes. Internet and electronic means are employed to conduct publicity activities. The Heads of Missions personally supervise this effort and tailor their approaches to the local milieu. Opinion and decision makers from all walks of life are cultivated to promote and project India's perspectives and values. India's democratic, pluralistic and multi-ethnic ethos coupled with its long history of tolerance is underscored to reinforce a positive image of our country. The Ministry regularly keeps the Missions abreast with latest developments through Spokesman's Statements and Press Releases and they in turn keep the local media, Government officials and other target groups informed about India's policies and initiatives.

(b) The full range of ICCR's activities including exchanges of cultural troupes, visits by academics, scholars and other