

Pakistan's Talks with China

1726. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Asian Age, dated 19th May, 1998 under the heading "Pakistan begins talks with China";

(b) if so, what are the details of the decision arrived at between the two countries; and

(c) what is Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have seen statements by the Chinese Foreign Ministry official spokesman wherein he has described the talks as part of routine consultations between China and Pakistan. It is understood that the two countries held an extensive exchange of views on international questions and relevant security questions. The Pakistan Foreign Secretary, who led the Pakistani delegation, has also noted that the visit was an important facet of Pakistan's consultations with all major powers, and that Pakistan and China enjoyed close cooperative relations. He has also stated, following the visit, that there was complete identity of views between Pakistan and China.

(c) Government have noted both the context and timing of the talks, as also the statements made by both sides during and after the talks. Government continue to carefully watch and monitor the situation, and are resolved to take all steps necessary to safeguard the national interests of India.

Reaction of public on Nuclear Tests

1727. SHRI JOYANTA ROY:
SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has got complete feed back about the reactions of different sections of people in the country to the recent nuclear explosions;

(b) if so, what is his assessment of the overall reaction of the people;

(c) whether it is a fact that a dominant section of the elites, scientists and intellectuals have a negative reaction to the Bomb blasts which are, at best regarded, as political gimmicks for the benefit of the party in power; and

(d) if so, what steps are proposed to neutralize the negative effects of the recent blasts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) According to media reports on opinion polls conducted, the people of India have reacted to the nuclear tests with a sense of national pride and self-confidence.

(c) Government have also seen reports critical of Government's decision and the true expression of such views of a small section demonstrates the strong democratic traditions.

(d) Government have sought to — (a) explain our legitimate security concerns behind the decision to undertake the nuclear tests; (b) re-affirm that we are a responsible member of the international community and that our policies are marked by a high degree of restraint; (c) highlight our commitment to maintaining peace with stability in the region and beyond; and maintain our policy of taking initiatives for negotiations for global nuclear disarmament.

Recommendations of Indo-German Consultative Group

1728. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high powered Indo-German Consultative Group has recently submitted its recommendations to enhance bilateral co-operation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Indo-German Consultative Group held its sixth annual meeting in New Delhi on November 1-2, 1997. The discussions identified impediments to further cooperation between the two countries and suggested ways to overcome these. The Group also identified new initiatives to augment mutually beneficial exchanges. The issues discussed included promotion of trade and investment, Cooperation in the fields of science & technology with active industry involvement, education, culture and the media.

The Group also suggested the adoption by the two governments of an Indo-German Agenda 2000 and Beyond', consisting of specific measures to be pursued by the two countries in a medium and long term framework.

Political Appointments in Indian Missions Abroad

1729. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mission heads who are career diplomats and those who are political appointees out of all our missions abroad;

(b) what are the names of the political appointees and their missions;

(c) what is the reason for the gradual decline in the number of the political appointees over the years; and

(d) what steps would be taken to inject more dynamism and professionalism in our missions abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) 93 Capitals have career diplomats heading the missions while there are 8 Missions with political appointees as their Heads.

(b) The following are the names of political appointees and their Missions (in alphabetical order of names of Capitals)

- (1) Dr. Prabhakara Jha, Antananarivo
- (2) Shri Saiman Haidar, London
- (3) Dr. Jaspal Singh; Maputo
- (4) Shri L.C. Jain, Pretoria
- (5) Shri M.H. Ansari, Riyadh
- (6) Shri Kushok Bakula, Ulan Bator
- (7) Shri S.D. Muni, Vientiane
- (8) Shri Naresh Chandra, Washington

(c) There has been no decline in the number of politically appointed Heads of Missions over the years.

(d) The overall performance of the Missions and the professionalism and dynamism of our officers serving abroad is a matter of continuous and ongoing evaluation within the Ministry, officers frequently undergo short term refresher and training courses to keep them up-to-date with the latest developments. Wherever necessary, appropriate corrective measures are undertaken to maintain dynamism and professionalism in our Missions abroad.

Espionage by Satellite

1730. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many satellites launched by the developed countries are engaged in espionage/surveillance activities on various countries;

(b) if so, whether any protest has been registered by Governments against these activities;

(c) if so, when and the nature of protests registered; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?