

reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 28th April, 1998;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to such deal;

(c) whether Government propose to raise such issues in the international fora to defuse tension; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government are aware of the ongoing military cooperation between Russia and China including the sale of some ships which have the capacity to carry supersonic anti-ship missiles SSN-22.

Government are also aware of the transfer of missiles and missile technology from China to Pakistan. Our concern about such transfers are well-known and have been conveyed in our bilateral discussions with various countries.

Visit of American Senators to India

3273. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the two American Senators who recently visited India met the Prime Minister; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held in their meeting?

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

(a) and (b) US Senators Brownback and Charles Robb visited India on June 28, 1998. The Senators met with Prime Minister and other leader and held discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues in the context of the recent nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan.

Security Council's Plea to Curb Nuclear Weapons

3274. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UN Security Council has unanimously urged India and Pakistan to halt nuclear weapon programmes;

(b) if so, in what precise terms and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether the Security Council also reminded the nuclear weapon States of their responsibility to renew efforts to curb nuclear weapons, including those in their arsenals; and if so, what is the P-5 response thereto?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Security Council called upon India and Pakistan immediately to stop their nuclear weapon development programmes, to refrain from weaponisation or from the deployment of nuclear weapons, to cease development of ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons and any further production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. The Government in its response has stated that the Security Council Resolution was coercive and unhelpful.

(c) Yes, Sir. However, the P-5 countries have not agreed to work for global nuclear disarmament in a time-bound framework.

Statement of Former Chief Minister of J and K

3275. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of the former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri G.M. Shah, appearing

in the Hindustan Times, dated 17th June, 1998 to the effect that a permanent solution to the Kashmir problem lay only in a tripartite conference and interaction between the three parties in the dispute; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Government have seen the reported statement of the former Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Shri G.M. Shah. The State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is in Pakistan's illegal and forcible occupation. India is committed to a resolution of all outstanding issues with Pakistan by peaceful means through direct bilateral negotiations as laid down in the Simla Agreement.

Visas Issued to Pakistani Citizens

3276. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of visas issued by India to Pakistani citizens desiring to visit India after the announcement of liberal visa package by Shri I.K. Gujral, former Prime Minister of India;

(b) whether Pakistan has also responded by liberalising visa to Indian citizens visiting Pakistan; and

(c) what is the total number of Indians who visited Pakistan and Pakistanis who visited India during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) 89142 Pakistani nationals were issued visas to visit India (from May, 1997 to June, 1998) by the High Commission of India in Islamabad after the announcement of unilateral measure easing issuance of visas to Pakistani nationals.

(b) Government are not aware of any specific steps taken by Pakistan regarding its visa policy for Indian nationals.

(c) The number of Indians who visited Pakistan in 1997 is not known as Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi does not provide any information regarding visas issued to Indian nationals desirous of visiting Pakistan. 97187 Pakistani nationals visited India in 1997.

पासपोर्ट कार्यालय का अहमदाबाद से गांधीनगर स्थानान्तरण

3277. श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार पूरे राज्य के लोगों की सुविधा के लिये क्षेत्रीय पासपोर्ट कार्यालय को अहमदाबाद से गांधीनगर स्थानांतरित करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में अंतिम निर्णय कब तक लिये जाने की संभावना है;

(ग) क्या राज्य सरकार ने इस संबंध में सभी सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने का आश्वासन दिया है; और

(घ) क्या क्षेत्रीय पासपोर्ट कार्यालय को गांधीनगर स्थानांतरित करने का निर्णय सर्वाधिक उपयुक्त साबित होगा?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुंधरा राजे): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Chinese Military Aid to Pakistan

3278. SHRI FRIDA TOPNO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the reaction of Government and the steps taken to meet any threat from Pakistan or from any other country in view of Press reports that Pakistan Army Chief is visiting China to seek enhanced supply of conventional weapons and other military aid from China to tide over the financial crunch facing its forces and also that Pakistan is reported to be soon receiving a ship-load of special metals and electronics used to make Chinese anti-tank missiles 'Bakhtar Shikan'?