

Chinese base In Myanmar

2923. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Chinese bases were built in Myanmar to harm India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government have taken up this issue with Myanmar;
- (d) if so, what was the response of Myanmar; and
- (e) whether Government are keeping tab of such activities in Myanmar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (e) Government regularly discuss security related issues with the Government of Myanmar. Government have been assured that the Government of Myanmar's policy is not to permit any foreign military bases, nor to allow their territory to be used for activities inimical to India's interests.

Visit by Sri Lankan President

2924. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Sri Lankan President during her recent State visit to India met the Prime Minister in New Delhi and discussed many important issues concerning two countries;
- (b) whether Government showed their willingness to Sri Lanka to keep the SAARC process alive and desired to participate in its Standing Committee's proposed meeting in May, 2001;
- (c) whether both the countries also agreed to implement-pending free trade agreement as well as to discuss thread bare the ongoing ethnic conflict on the island; and
- (d) if so, what was final outcome of their talks?

[22 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) India and Sri Lanka agreed that the SAARC Standing Committee would meet in the second half of May subject to the convenience of all member countries.

(c) and (d) The two sides noted with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the India — Sri Lankan Free Trade Agreement, which took effect from March 1, 2000 and reiterated their commitment to the realisation of the full potential of the Agreement. The Sri Lankan President apprised the Indian leadership of the current status of the process to initiate talks to end the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka and to pursue constitutional reforms. India reiterated its consistent support for the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka and for a negotiated political settlement of the conflict, as the only way to restore lasting peace which would meet the aspirations of all elements of Sri Lankan society.

Indian passports in possession of ISI agents

† 2925. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian passports have been found in possession of the terrorists and the people connected with the ISI;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted so far any investigation in this matter;

(c) if so, the number of such cases brought into the notice and the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) There have been six cases where passports were issued to

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.