

issues and problems relating to NRIs and PIOs. Detailed terms of reference of the Committee are given in the statement (*See below*). The Committee is expected to give its report by 31st August, 2001.

Statement

The terms of reference of the High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora

(1) Review the status of Persons of Indian origin (PIOs) and Non Resident Indians (NRIs) in the context of constitutional provisions, Laws and rules applicable to them both in India and the countries of their residence;

(2) Study the characteristics, aspirations, attitudes, requirements, strengths and weaknesses of Indian Diaspora and their expectations from India;

(3) Study the role that the PIOs and NRIs may play in the economic and social and technological development of India;

(4) Examine the current regime that governs the travel and stay of PIOs in India and investments by PIOs in India, and recommend measures to resolve the problems faced by NRIs in these areas;

(5) Recommend a broad but flexible policy framework and country specific plans for forging a mutually beneficial relationship with the region or PIOs and NRIs, and for facilitating their interaction with India and their participation in India's economic development.

Threat from Chinese Missile

2930. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the US Congressional Research Service Report published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 27th August, 2000 to the effect that China with its sophisticated DF-3A medium range missiles could target India, Japan and South Korea;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

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(c) Government's assessment of the threat perceptions arising therefrom?

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

(b) and (c) Government monitors carefully the development and deployment of weapons of mass destruction and the means of their delivery in the region and beyond. Government is fully committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security in accordance with its own assessment of threats to our security.

Smuggling of Terrorists by Pakistani Military

2931. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated 29th January, 2001, quoting the 'Times Magazine' to the effect that Pakistani military is deeply involved in smuggling of terrorists across the Line of Control into Kashmir and that out of the five main militant groups operating in Kashmir, four were based in Pakistan; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto, in the light of Pak-Military regime's offer for talks, and to bring home such facts to all the big powers including China and the USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Government have been appropriately bringing to the attention of the international community, including USA and China, facts pertaining to Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India. The international community now openly acknowledges Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism. This open acknowledgment is being reflected in the media coverage on Pakistan. The article published in the international news magazine "Times", and referred to in the Indian Express issue of 29 January 2001, is another example of the type of media coverage Pakistan has been receiving.