

[22 March, 2001]

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trafficking in narcotics. India and the United States have agreed to intensify their cooperation to combat international terrorism. As part of this process, the two sides have established a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism to coordinate approaches and actions to combat international terrorism. Our concerns about international and cross border terrorism have also been conveyed to the Chinese side.

Government will continue to take all necessary measures to defeat Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism and to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

Setting up of Indian Cultural Centres across the world

2929. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to establish a University and Cultural Centres across the World in the interest of Indian diaspora;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government consider such a proposal, to bring Indians in other countries close to Indian Cultural traditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) During the 6th Convention of the Global Organisation of the People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) held in New Delhi on 6th and 7th January, 2001, a resolution was passed urging the Government of India to start a University in India for Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs). GOPIO delegates also requested Government to establish Cultural Centres in all places with large PIO concentrations where such Centres do not exist.

Government of India has all along been keen to deepen linkages between India and Non Resident Indians (NRIs) and PIOs. A High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora has, therefore, been constituted, headed by Dr. L.M. Singhvi, MP and former High Commissioner to U.K., as Chairman *w.e.f.* 1.9.2000 to address all the

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