

of the Pressler Amendment would have on Indo-US relations if this leads to transfer of frontline weapon system from the US to Pakistan, Government constantly monitor developments having a bearing on India's security and remain committed to take necessary steps to safeguard India's national interest.

दक्षिण अफ्रीका के साथ राजनयिक संबंध

1621. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह: क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने दक्षिणी अफ्रीका के साथ राजनयिक संबंध स्थापित किये हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी व्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) क्या निकट भविष्य में विदेश मंत्री द्वारा दक्षिण अफ्रीका का दौरा करने की संभावना है।

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सलमान खुरशीद): (क) और (ख) दक्षिण अफ्रीका के विदेश मंत्री श्री आर० एफ० बोथा की हाल की भारत यात्रा के दौरान (21-22 नवम्बर, 1993) दोनों पक्षों के बीच राजनयिक एवं कौंसली संबंधों की स्थापना संबंधी प्रोटोकॉल पर हस्ताक्षर हुए थे।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

Steps Taken to Acquire Sophisticated Technologies

@1622. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of US policies on India's efforts to obtain sophisticated technologies, any steps have been taken by Government to acquire the same from other countries; and

(b) if so, the outcome of such efforts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The US and other Western countries maintain controls on the export of sophisticated technologies and sensitive commodities to countries in the developing world. Government have repeatedly made known its objection to such adhoc technology-denial regimes.

@'Previously Unstarred Question 945 transferred from 9-12-1993

Government are committed to the indigenous development of sophisticated technologies which cannot be obtained from foreign sources.

Misappropriation of Funds of ICWA

1623. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what action Government have taken against the management of ICWA who has misappropriated the grant-in-aid of lakhs of rupees in 1986 received from Ministries of External Affairs and Human Resource Development; and

(b) whether it is a fact that on earlier occasion the External Affairs Ministry has stated in the House that Government have taken action against misappropriation of grant-in-aid by ICWA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) ICWA is an autonomous body and the Government is not associated with its functioning. However, complaints regarding its functioning continue to be received by Government.

(b) No such reference was made. The then Minister of State for External Affairs, on 5th September, 1990 while moving the Motion for consideration of the Indian Council of World Affairs Bill, 1990 had referred to financial and management problems in the Council with serious complaints being received by the Government.

Representation of Employees Regarding Taking over the Management of the Indian Council of World Affairs

1624. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are receiving representations from employees and scholars regarding their

pica for take-over of the Indian Council of World Affairs management; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on the representations by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) Indian Council of World Affairs is an autonomous body and it is not the policy of the Government to take over such bodies. After extensive consultations, the Government have decided to constitute a high-powered committee to look into the affairs of I.C.W.A. However, this committee can only be set up on a specific request of the Council itself, it being an autonomous body. Presently, the governing body of the Council is being persuaded to pass a resolution requesting the Government to constitute such a committee.

Report on Islamic Terrorist Camp

1625. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's reaction to a Report "The New Islamic International" produced by the US House of Representatives Republican research committee:

(b) whether Government has taken any action on the 29 Kashmiri Substitutive groups who have been receiving assistance and shelter in Pakistan; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take with regard to reported Islamic terrorist in Gohat, Larkana, Sialkot and Lahore where they are trained on the latest weapons and they infiltrated into India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Government have obtained details relating to the House Republican Research Committee's report titled "The New Islamic

International" which in its Section on Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Export of Terrorism noted the assistance, as per an active ISI programme, to Kashmiri militants. Government have been continuously appraising friendly Governments, including the US, of the continuous support in terms of arms, equipment and training by Pakistan to terrorists in India.

(b) and (c) Government constantly monitor developments relating to India's national security and remain committed to take necessary steps to safeguard India's territorial unity and integrity.

Increase in the Passport Fee

1626. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an unprecedented hike in the passport fee and if so, the quantum of increase;

(b) what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have also taken steps to streamline the process of issue of passport if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Passport fees were revised w.e.f. 10th July, 1993. to bring them in line with the cost of production and preparation of passports and the provision of passport services. The revised fee schedule is given in the enclosed statement (*see below*).

(c) Yes, Sir. Government have taken a number of measures to streamline the process of issue of passports. These include augmentation of staff strength; increase in the supply of passport booklets; introduction of a incentive scheme; upgradation of office facilities and a review of systems and procedures in order to increase productivity and reduce delays.