

(c) what is the procedure laid down for travelling to Tibet; and

(d) whether travel to Tibet is encouraged or not?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH):

(a) Government have statistics only pertaining to pilgrims and nationals engaged in border trade. The number of pilgrims to Kailash and Mansarovar in Tibet for pilgrimage in 1992 was 233 and the number of traders who went to Tibet for border trade in the same period was 299.

(b) Some pilgrims have reported that they have faced difficulties in transportation and boarding and lodging in Tibet, which are not matters under our control.

(c) Indian pilgrims travelling for the Kailash-Mansarovar yatra are issued Chinese visas by the Chinese Embassy in Delhi, while those crossing the India-China border for border trade at Lipulekh Pass do so on a special Travel Pass issued by the Pithoragarh, UP district authorities.

(d) Government does not discourage travel to Tibet.

No flag hoisting on Republic Day by Indian Embassy in Sudan

4130. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian embassy at Khartoum, the capital of Sudan did not hoist the national flag on Republic Day this year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such a lapse has occurred for the first time during the past 25 years; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA):

(a) and (b) The manner in which Republic Day is celebrated by our Missions abroad varies depending on local circumstances and exigencies. Flag hoisting in the morning is cus-

tomary. The last Republic Day was celebrated in Khartoum by our Embassy with a reception, at which local dignitaries, diplomats and all members of the Indian community were invited.

(c) Does not arise.

Indo-pak bilateral relations after bomb explosion in Bombay and Calcutta

4131. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan's hand has been found either directly or indirectly in recent bomb explosion in Bombay and in Calcutta and day by day incidents of bomb blasts in both these cities;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government stating its clear stand on the matter/incidents; and

(c) its impact on Indo-Pak bilateral relations as well as on Indian people?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH):

(a) Six persons wanted by the investigating authorities in the Bombay explosions case are known to have proceeded from UAE to Karachi on March 17, 1993.

(b) The Pakistan Government have been requested to cooperate in locating, apprehending and returning the suspects to India.

(c) Impact on Indo-Pak relations will depend on Pakistan's response.

Nuclear capaci of Pakistan

4132. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of Pakistan Prime Minister that Pakistan had acquired nuclear capability;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps India has proposed to take to enable India face any nuclear attack from Pakistan; and

(d) what steps are being taken in the international arena to deter Pakistan from making nuclear weapons?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH):

(a) and (b) Government have seen press reports on Pakistan Prime Minister's interview to CNN on 29-1-1993 where he has, *inter-alia*, stated that it is true that Pakistan has acquired nuclear capability.

(c) Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

(d) Our concern over the pursuit of a clandestine and weapons oriented programme and its implications for India's and regional security and stability have been conveyed to all concerned.

Indo-US relations in post cold-water Period

4133. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the new American Administration has a focus on Nuclear Proliferation and human rights issue;

(b) if so, whether Government are under pressure on the nuclear issue and human rights in Kashmir, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of study report of the RAND Corporation on Indian strategic thinking as sponsored by US Administration, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are also aware of the study report of the Carnegie endowment or the Indo-US relations in post cold-war period, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are discussing issues relating to disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and regional security bilaterally with the US Government. Our position on human rights and measures taken by Government to uphold human rights have also been communicated to the US Government.

(c) Yes, Sir. The US Department of Defence commissioned a study by the RAND Corporation on India's strategic thought. This study, authored by Dr. George Tanham, contends that there is an absence of strategic thinking and planning in India, stemming largely from India's historical and cultural development which has led to the development of a predominantly defensive strategic orientation.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace's report on "India and America after the Cold War" observes that the end of the Cold War has created the opportunity for a significant improvement in relations between the United States and India and offers a range of policy recommendations to both governments to overcome current irritants and deepen bilateral ties. *Inter alia*, these recommendations cover the areas of defence cooperation, nuclear restraint, missile development, economic reforms, human rights, narcotics control, Indo-Pak relations, India-China relations and the restructuring of the United Nations Security Council.

Functioning of regional passport office, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

4134. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the normal time taken by the Regional Passport Office, Shastri