

Dumping of Tear-Gas Grenades by U.S. Embassy

6645. SHRI: K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that U.S. Embassy in New Delhi dumped U.S. made tear-gas grenades in the Ridge area, New Delhi and that these shells were emitting foul smoke, as reported in the 'Pioneer' dated the 23rd March, 1994; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons that the U.S. Embassy had brought these grenades into the country; and on what grounds it had discarded them and whether Government of India had given the necessary permission for their import and disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir

(b) Government had given permission to the US Marine Security Guards to use the Firing Range of Rajputana Rifles Centre between 0730 and 1400 hrs. on March 1, 1994. The users had burnt some expired teargas cannisters in a pit in the process of destroying them. The pits were covered with earth thereafter. This activity did not create any hazard or irritation to residents of nearby inhabited areas. On a subsequent date, some local inhabitants while retrieving waste/metal parts from the range probably removed certain burnt cannisters from the pit, which caused irritation to the handlers. Upon the matter being reported to the Army, necessary measures were taken to dispose off all burnt cannisters beyond the reach of civil inhabitants.

Anti-India Propaganda Material

6646. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a startling news report which appeared in the 'Sunday Observer' of 20th March, 1994 to the effect that despite strictest possible security arrangements, anti-Indian propaganda material found its way into the rooms of some of the accompanying officials in the P.M.'s entourage in London recently including one in P.M.'s hotel room also; and

(b) if so, whether an inquiry has been gone into and with what results?

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

(b) Some anti-India propaganda material related to Kashmir was delivered in the rooms of the members of media party accompanying the Prime Minister on his visit to the UK. However, the propaganda material did not reach the rooms of members of the official delegation accompanying the Prime Minister or the part of the hotel where the Prime Minister was staying. As such there was no security implication and no inquiry was called for.

Kohinoor Diamond

6647. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the King of diamonds "Kohinoor" is back with India; and;

(b) if not, what are Government plans to retrieve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Government approaches this question on the basis of the historical background and the realistic possibilities

of retrieving the relic, which are held to be remote.

References in British Media About Kashmir

6648. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that British Media have been referring to 'Kashmir' as 'Pak administered' and 'India administered' Kashmir;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government are also aware that Mr. Mahathir Mohd., Prime Minister of Malaysia had once retaliated against unseavoury references made by British Media against him and his country, by banning entry of British owned controlled companies;

(d) if so, whether Government would also like to retaliate in a similar manner, by banning British controlled/owned industries in India; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) government are aware that the British media sometimes refer to "Pak administered Kashmir" and "Indian administered Kashmir" in news items relating to Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) Through the Indian High Commission in London, Government constantly keep all sections of the British media briefed on the correct legal and political status of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) Government are not concerned with matters pertaining to relations between Malaysia and the United Kingdom.

(d) and (e) Economic relations between India and the United Kingdom are entirely unrelated to the matter raised in part (a) of the Question.

Fake Visas

6649. SHRI MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent visa racket in Bombay involving Saudi Arabia; and;

(b) what are the steps taken to save Indian citizens from fake visas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b): The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Collaboration in the deep sea fishing sector

6650. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any collaboration in the deep sea fishing industry sector to create storage facilities and infrastructure in order to utilize the deep sea fishing vessels;

(b) if so, the details of this proposal; and

(c) the proposed investment in 1994-95 for creation of additional infrastructure in Visakhapatnam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b): There is no proposal for collaboration of the Government in deep sea fishing to create storage facilities. However, Government gives assistance to organisations for meeting upto 50% of the capital expenditure on establishment of cold chain and for setting up facilities for processing of Tuna and other fishes.

(c) No proposal for Plan assistance for creation of additional infrastructural facilities in Visakhapatnam in deep sea