

(b) if so, the number of such refugees who entered India from Burma and the treatment and status given to them; and

(c) what is the policy of Government in this regard and the concrete positive steps taken to save democratic process in that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have consistently supported the democratic aspirations of the people of Myanmar and have expressed the hope that the Myanmar Government will transfer power to the elected representatives without delay. Government have also urged the Myanmar authorities to release all political prisoners.

Tension between India and Pakistan

3329. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during his recent visit to USA he conveyed to the US Government that tension between India and Pakistan will continue and had not de-escalated because Pakistan continue to interfere in India's internal affairs;

(b) if so, what was the US Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether they have agreed to impress upon the Pakistan in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) US has also repeatedly stressed support for a bilateral solution of the Kashmir problem peacefully in the spirit of the Simla accord.

Ban on Sale of Loss Making Ships

3330. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have refused to permit the shipping companies to sell their loss making ships if so, the reason for the same;

(b) whether these shipping companies are forced to ply these ships despite unremunerative freight rates through loss mounted;

(c) whether Government are insisting that those ships which have not completed their economic life should not be allowed to be sold abroad as it would mean a loss of tonnage; and

(d) the number of such ships allowed by Government to be sold?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIK-KRISHNAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Government have issued revised guidelines in November, 1989 regarding sale of ships abroad which have not completed their economic life. These guidelines are reproduced below:—

"In such a case when the vessel has not completed its stipulated age norms and proposal is for sale of vessel to foreign buyer, the Director General of Shipping would examine whether the Indian Shipping company can run the vessel economically or not. In case it is found that the company is not able to operate the vessel on economic basis for reasons beyond its control (uneconomic operation, changed pattern of trade, non-availability of adequate business, unusual wear and tear of the vessel, etc.), it would normally be permitted to sell the vessel subject to the following conditions:—

(i) the sale of the vessel would result in the entire foreign exchange outstanding on the purchase being fully recovered, concomitantly, where the ship has been