

Conference (OIC) scheduled at Cairo from July 30 to adopt a resolution proposing a mediation with India on Kashmir by setting up an OIC committee;

(b) if so, the steps according to Government information would have so far been taken by the Pakistan Government in that direction and with what success; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) and (b) The OIC Foreign Ministers meeting in Cairo from July 31—August 4, 1990 adopted a resolution in which *inter alia*, willingness is expressed to send a good offices mission to ease tension between India and Pakistan and to promote a peaceful settlement.

(c) In a statement by official spokesman on August 6, 1990, it was explained that the root cause of the present tensions between India and Pakistan is Pakistan's interference in India's internal affairs including sponsorship of and encouragement to terrorists and subversive activities from across the border. We are firmly convinced that the tensions can be successfully defused only by means of bilateral dialogue and that Pakistan's efforts at internationalising the matter will not help. In fact, Pakistan's very raising of Kashmir at OIC is a violation of the Simla Agreement which stipulates the peaceful and bilateral resolution of all differences between India and Pakistan. We have explained our position to all friendly countries including the OIC member states and they have been left in no doubt that Kashmir is not a religious and therefore not an Islamic issue and that internationalization in any manner will not help the bilateral process in any way.

Threat to the freedom of the Press by the then Deputy Prime Minister

1742. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention was drawn to the threat of censorship, given by the then Deputy Prime Minister, to be imposed on the Press allegedly dominated by the Big Houses;

(b) if so, whether it represented Government's thinking with regard to the freedom of the press; and

(c) if not, what was Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The views expressed by the then Deputy Prime Minister do not represent the Government's thinking on this issue. The Government is fully committed to the freedom of the Press.

Chinese Supply of Arms to Pakistan

1743. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China is supplying new sophisticated arms to Pakistan;

(b) whether Chinese are also providing them the technical know-how of the manufacture of atomic weapons;

(c) whether Chinese are also collaborating with Pakistan about the manufacture of new tanks;

(d) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India thereon; and

(e) what is likely to be the repercussion of actions on the talks in improving Indo-China relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) to (e) Government are aware of ongoing defence cooperation in various fields between China and Pakistan. Government are also aware of Chinese assistance to Pakistan in the nuclear field, Government's apprehensions regarding the clandestine nature and weapons orientation of Pakistan's nuclear programme are well known to all concerned, including the Chinese Government.

Government attaches importance to the improvement of relations between India and China. The Chinese Government is aware of India's desire to promote peace, stability and cooperation in South Asia. At the same time, Government keep under constant review all developments having a bearing on India's security and national interest.

Looting of Armouries of GRP by Terrorists at Ferozepur

1744. **SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorists in Punjab have looted armouries of the Government Railway Police (GRP) at Ferozepur and of a police post in Tarn Taran police district during the last week of June, 1990;

(b) the reasons for which the terrorists could succeed in looting armouries;

(c) the details of the articles looted by the terrorists;

(d) whether some persons were also kidnapped by the terrorists, if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any efforts have been made by Government to trace the

looted articles and to book the terrorists; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Extremists looted three .303 rifles alongwith 135 cartridges from security guard of PSEB Grid Sub-station at Lauke PS Patti PD Tarn Taran. They took away three SLRs, five strenguns, twenty 303 rifles, five 1.62 rifles, a wireless set and 1670 cartridges of different calibres from GRP police station, Ferozepur Cantt., after scaling walls. Extremists had overpowered the constables and Home Guards and in the incident at GRP Ferozepur connivance of one of the constables is suspected. The extremists also took away with them all the 10 constables and their uniforms. Later on extremists freed the constables except one at a reasonable distance. Constable Hardip Singh who was on sentry duty did not return back to police station and went away with extremists. State Government have registered a case and are taking appropriate action in this regard.

Parliament Session in Bangalore

1745. **SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:** Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the then Deputy Prime Minister, in a Press Conference held at Bangalore, had stated that a Session of Parliament would be held in Bangalore; and

(b) if so, what arrangements are in progress in furtherance of that statement?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) At pre-