

Prime Minister's statement on acquisition of nuclear knowhow by Pakistan

645. DR. H. P. SHARMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in an interview given to a Kuwaiti daily "Arab Times" which was reported in the *Times of India* of September 2, 1985 to the effect that the Prime Minister while reiterating India's nuclear policy had observed—"But, if Pakistan were to acquire nuclear weapons, our security imperatives would compel us (India) to review our options." :

(b) if so, what are the details regarding acquisition of nuclear weapons and know-how and materials therefor by Pakistan; and

(c) whether in the light thereof Government have reviewed their Policy?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) to (c) The non-peaceful dimension of Pakistan's nuclear programme has been a matter of concern for India. Government's nuclear policy continues to be the same as before, and government continues to keep a vigil on all developments having a bearing on our country's security.

Difficulties in bringing truce in Sri Lanka

646. DR. H. P. SHARMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government found the bringing about of a lasting truce in Sri Lanka, between Sri Lankan Government and Tamil militants to be extremely difficult;

(b) if so, on what terms the ceasefire was extended; and

(c) what further efforts are being made to resolve the ethnic issue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ceasefire was extended on an understanding that the same terms agreed to earlier in June would continue to apply. In addition, the Sri Lanka Government agreed to set up a Monitoring Committee to monitor the working of the ceasefire.

(c) Negotiations to resolve the ethnic issue are continuing. Some basic views of the Tamil groups in regard to the Sri Lankan proposal for a political solution were elicited during talks held with authorities in the Ministry of External Affairs and the Government of Tamil Nadu. These views were conveyed to the Sri Lanka President in Nassau, and on the basis of his reactions further talks were held with the Tamil groups from Nov., 7—9. Further negotiations are continuing as the Sri Lanka Minister for National Security met the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary in Oman.

Plea of Prime Minister for economic sanctions against South Africa

647. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister had made a strong plea at the Commonwealth Summit Meet held at Nassau Bahamas in October this year for stern economic sanctions against South African Pretoria regime aimed at ending the apartheid policy which continues to be enforced by that regime ; and

(b) if so, what was the reaction of different heads of the State thereto and the consensus arrived at in the matter?