

into Punjab recently with the help of their contact men in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken by Government to flush them out and also to identify the contact men in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Government have not received any such reports.

(b) Does not arise.

**Embracing of Islam by certain persons in Bahraich, U.P.**

1771. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state-

(a) whether Government have any information that some Harijans and non-Harijans of District Bahraich of Uttar Pradesh have embraced Islam during the period from 1st January, 1985 to 31st March, 1985;

(b) if so, what is their number, community-wise;

(c) whether Government have ascertained the reasons for which they' embraced Islam; and

(d) whether Government have any objection to such conversion or re-conversion, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Yes, The Government have seen Press reports in this regard.

(b) to (d) Details are being ascertained from the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

**Building of embankment by Bangladesh authorities on river Muhuri**

1772. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangladesh authorities are building a high and well-equipped embankment along the Muhuri river in Tripura;

(b) whether it is a fact that the work is in progress on a war footing;

(c) whether it is also a fact that even warnings by BSF personnel have been ignored and the construction is going on under protection provided by the Bangladesh Rifles;

(d) whether such protection is in violation of the agreement concluded between India and Bangladesh; and

(e) if so, what action the Government of India propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The works undertaken by Bangladesh are in violation of the understanding reached by the Joint Expert Committee of the Joint Rivers Commission in March 1979

(e) Government are taking suitable protective measures.

**Building of airfields for U.S. Air force in Pakistan**

1773. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report appearing in the 'Indian Express of the 8th April, 1985 quoting the Soviet News Agency, Tass, that substantial part of military aid promised by US to Pakistan would be used for building airfields for US Air Force in Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN):

(a) Government has seen press reports to this effect

(b) Government is opposed to the setting up of foreign bases/facilities in any country and this has been conveyed to both the US and Pakistan Governments on different occasions.