

(b) For Pune bypass, the land acquisition has already been sanctioned for 34 km. length. Further, construction of 9 km. length of the bypass and bridges over Muthu and Pavana have also been sanctioned. The remaining work will be sanctioned after land for the bypass is acquired and subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority of various National Highway works in Maharashtra.

(c) Traffic safety measures such as providing cautionary and informative road-signs and improving geometries of the National Highways have been taken to reduce the incidence of accidents on the road.

**Decision on Commonwealth Report
Towards A new Bretton Woods**

2727. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent CHOGM in New Delhi discussions were held on the Commonwealth Report towards a New Bretton Woods for financial institutions for undeveloped countries;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the discussions;

(c) whether any decision was arrived at in this regard; if so, the details thereof; if not the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the UK supported the New Bretton Woods proposal; if so, the details thereof; if not the reasons therefor and the reaction of Government of India to the UK stand?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir, during the recent CHOGM Meeting in New Delhi there were extensive discussions on the reform of the international monetary and financial system and in this context the Heads of Government had before them the report by the Commonwealth Group of Experts "Towards a New Bretton Woods".

(b) During these discussions views were expressed regarding the inadequacies and deficiencies of international monetary and financial institutions. India and

other non-aligned countries recalled the proposal of the 7th Nonaligned Summit for convening of an International Conference on Money and Finance for Development with universal participation with the objective of a comprehensive reform of the existing inequitable and outdated international monetary and financial system. Reference was also made during the discussions to the decision of the Williamsburg Summit to ask Finance Ministers to define the conditions for improving the international monetary system and to consider the part which might in due course be played in this process by a high level international monetary conference. There was broad agreement that the situation calls for a comprehensive review of the international monetary, financial and relevant trade issues. It was also agreed that an immediate process of preparatory consultation is needed to identify areas of agreement, potential agreement and areas of requiring further consideration and that all the countries affected must directly involved in the discussions and decision making. There was a widespread belief that it will be necessary to discuss these issues at an international conference with universal participation. It was recognised that the preparatory process could result in a consensus on convening such a conference.

(c) The Heads of Government decided to establish a Commonwealth consultative group for purpose of promoting a consensus on these issues. The Group will be composed of the representatives of Governments from Britain, Canada, Fiji, India, New Zealand, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago and Zimbabwe together with the Secretary-General and will consult as appropriate on the most effective way of taking action, taking full account of international consultations going on elsewhere. This Group has been asked to report to Commonwealth Finance Ministers before their meeting in Toronto next year.

(d) Britain expressed its support for many of the ideas contained in the Commonwealth Expert Group Report "Towards a New Bretton Woods". Britain was not, however, in a position to endorse at this stage the proposal for

convening an international conference. The consultative group which has been set up would work to promote a consensus on this issue.

Chinese Arms to Insurgents of the North East Region

2728. SHRI HAREKRUSHNA MALLICK:

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN;

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China is providing arms as well as training to insurgent group in the North East region of the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Chinese authorities require the insurgent groups to carry letters of recommendations from the Naga Federal Council; and

(c) whether this amounts to *de facto* recognition by China of the Naga Federal Council?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (c) Government have not come across any evidence to corroborate this, but remain vigilant regarding any change in the situation.

Preparations for War in Space by U. S. A.

2729. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S.A. has large plans to prepare for war in space; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) The Government is aware of reports that the US Administration has plans to develop space based weapons which would add a new dimension to its military capabilities.

(b) The views of the Government which are against the militarization of outer space, have been stated in the past in appropriate fora.

Amounts due for Hiring Ships from Shipping Corporation of India

2730. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of ships owned by the Shipping Corporation of India;

(b) whether any tender is invited for giving ships to be run by any company;

(c) if so, the names of the companies and their directors who have hired ships from the Shipping Corporation of India;

(d) the details of rents and other charges to be realised by the Shipping Corporation of India from those who are running ships of the Corporation; and

(e) whether any efforts are being made to recover the dues from the companies; if so, what are the details thereof; if no steps are being taken what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) A statement showing the names of ships owned by the S.C.I. is attached.

(b) the vessels are chartered by the Ministry of Shipping and Transport, Chartering Wing for transporting Indian Government Cargoes. In so far as transportation of private cargo is concerned, the SCI enters the market through a panel of reputed brokers registered with the Chartering Wing of the Ministry of Shipping and Transport and finalises the fixture of vessels after due negotiations, keeping in view the market conditions and suitability of the vessels. The Product Carriers of the SCI are employed by Indian Oil Industries, try for import of products from U.S.S.R. to India and the tankers are employed for the movement of crude to India.