

World Summit

3295. SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. President has agreed to attend the World Summit to be held in the next month in the U.N. as requested by the Prime Minister of India as Chairperson of NAM; if not, what reasons have been given for not accepting the invitation; and

(b) whether it is a fact that there will be a South Asian Summit on the eve of aforesaid World Summit in the U.N.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) In response to PM's letter which had *inter alia* contained a call on world leaders to attend the 38th UNGA session at Summit level, President Reagan had indicated that PM's proposals would receive the most careful consideration. No further communication has been received from the President of the USA on this subject.

(b) There is no proposal at present to hold a Summit of South Asian leaders during the forthcoming UNGA Session.

U.S. Diplomat in Sri Lanka

3296. SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the U.S. diplomat Mr. Griffin, who was involved in Bangladesh and Afghanistan troubles, is at present in Sri Lanka and is fomenting anti-Indian tirade in Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) No, Sir. The gentleman is said to be in another country in Africa. He is not known to have been in our neighbourhood in recent times.

(b) Does not arise.

Harijan and Adivasi Women Employees In Indian Missions Abroad

3297. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of women Harijan and Adivasi employees, category-wise working in the Indian Missions abroad;

(b) whether any preferential treatment is given to them;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if the answer of part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) There are two Harijan (SC) and two Adivasi (ST) women Officers working in our Missions abroad.

(b) No preferential treatment is meted out to them.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Reservations for officials belonging to SC/ST are made as per the regulations concerning reservations and these are strictly observed. However, there is no reservation or preferential treatment prescribed in regard to postings in Missions and Posts abroad for any category of official.

Issue of Passports to Foreign Travellers

3298. SHRI 'BISWA GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the intending foreign travellers from Rajasthan have to come to Delhi to obtain the 'SIKKA' stamp of Government of India and then they are issued the passports; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?