

Claims of Bangladesh on sharing of Ganga Waters and ownership of New Moore Island

447. SHRI SURESH SHAMRAO

KALMADI:

SHRI ARVIND GANESH

KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the claims made by the Chief Martial Law Administrator of Bangladesh recently regarding the sharing of Ganga Water at Farakka and the ownership of New Moore Island; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto and what steps Government have taken to inform the Bangladesh authorities about India's position on the same?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO). (a) Government have seen the interview of Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad, Chief Martial Law Administrator of Bangladesh published in the Bangladesh weekly "Bichitra" in which reference was made, *inter-alia* to sharing of Ganga waters at Farakka and New Moore Island.

(b) The Government of India and Bangladesh are in touch with each other with a view to resolving some of the outstanding bilateral issues, including issues such as augmentation of Ganga Waters and New Moore Island.

Suggestion from China for the Settlement of Border Issue

448. SHRI SURESH SHAMRAO

KALMADI:

SHRI ARVIND GANESH

KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chinese Government have recently suggested a

"comprehensive settlement" of the border issue on the basis of a "package" which would mean exchange of certain areas belonging to India;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon; and

(c) what are the details of the proposals of Government of India on the basis of which both China and India could discuss to improve the relations between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reaction of Government to the so-called package proposal was contained in the statement made by the Foreign Minister in the Lok Sabha on July 2, 1980. A copy of the statement of the Foreign Minister is attached.

(c) It is the Government's intention, *inter alia*, through the official level talks of which the second session is to be held in May, 1982, to explore all avenues to improve relations with China as well as to settle outstanding bilateral problems, including the boundary question.

Statement by Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Minister of External Affairs, in the Lok Sabha on 2nd July, 1980, in response to the Calling Attention Notice regarding the reported Chinese offer to settle the Border Problem on the basis of the present line of actual Control

VICE-PREMIER Deng Xiaoping of the People's Republic of China met an Indian journalist on June 21, 1980. According to the official Chinese News Agency XINHUA, on the settlement of the border problem, following is an extract of his statement.

"So long as both sides are sincere, respect the present state of the border, and are tolerant towards each other, the Sino-Indian boundary ques-